President Bush thanks GMA again for anti-terror help

Story on PAGE A2

IN *Saturday Special*

BRANDO

- 'Apocalypse Now' hailed as greatest film in 25 years /C1
- Steve Martin to return as Oscars host /C2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Letter bomb defused at Myanmar Embassy

POLICE yesterday defused a letter bomb sent to the Myanmar Embassy in Makati.

"It was a letter bomb. There was a blasting cap. It's in a small white envelope," a police source told Reuters.

Makati police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez later said the letter bomb, a rigged musical birthday card addressed to "Myanmar Embassy," was defused by a bomb squad.

LETTER/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, November 16, 2002 ★ 86 pages / 7 sections / vol. 17 / no. 341 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Meralco loses ₱28-B case

High court to firm: Refund consumers

By Michael Lim Ubac

AN EARLY Christmas gift?

More than 3 million electricity consumers received an unusually large windfall from the Supreme Court. Yesterday the high court ordered the Manila Electric Co. to refund a total of P28.15 billion in excess charges.

The landmark ruling reversed a 2000 Court of Appeals decision which had barred the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) from forcing the country's biggest power distributor to implement the refund.

Had the CA ruled for the ERB then, the 3.1 million Meralco customers in 2000 would have been reimbursed a total of P11.3 billion, for excess charges imposed from 1994 to 1998. But based on Meralco's own computations, total refunds now amount to P28.15 billion.

The high court's Third Division unanimously held that Meralco follow only the 1.7-centavo rate increase allowed by the ERB and that it refund the 16.7 centavos per kilowatt-hour it had overcharged.

"Meralco is authorized to adopt a rate adjustment in the amount of P0.017 per kilowatt-hour, effective with respect to Meralco's billing cycle beginning Feb. 1994," the decision written by Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno read.

Also, Meralco must refund the "excess average amount" of P0.167 per kilowatt-hour starting with billing cycles beginning in February 1998.

MERALCO/ A18

Meralco can't pay debts, will appeal

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Carlito Pablo

OFFICIALS of the country's largest power distributor said yesterday the firm would not be able to repay debt that will fall due next year because of the Supreme Court ruling ordering it to refund billions of pesos in excess charges.

Company treasurer Rafael Andrada confirmed that Manila Electric Company now faced a bill of some P28 billion, and said it could not service debt maturing in 2003. "We will not meet that," Andrada told a news conference.

"We will sit down with our creditors and discuss possible restructuring of the short-term loans," he added.

Meralco president Jesus P. Francisco said the firm would ask the high court to reconsider its decision.

"We have tasked our lawyers to carefully go through the ruling," Francisco said. "However, it appears that the points we raised in the motion we filed last November 11 was not addressed."

He was referring to a motion requesting that the case be elevated to the Supreme Court en banc.

The market response was immediate and severe. As news of the adverse decision filtered out, and the details of Meralco's own dire scenario became clearer, the company's shares plunged.

Its B shares, traded by foreign and local investors, fell 12 percent, or P2.25, to close at P16.5.

MERALCO/ A18

WELCOME BACK
Firepower turned over by 149 surrendered NPA guerrillas is on display in Barangay Pinugay, Rizal, for presentation to President Macapagal by Solcom Gen. Kyamko on Friday. *(Story on Page A7.)* EDWIN BACASMAS

No need for Cabinet men to quit, says Palace

By Carlito Pablo and Gerald G. Lacuarta

JUST as courtesy resignations from members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's official family have started to trickle in, Malacanang announced that the gesture was "neither necessary nor relevant."

"'Courtesy resignation' is simply a catchy term for something that is not relevant," Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for Ms Macapagal, said at the press briefing yesterday afternoon. He said pointedly that Cabinet changes were made through presidential action, and "not through media speculation."

Obviously referring to the Inquirer, which earlier reported a planned reshuffle in the Cabinet to mark the President's re-launch of her "strong republic" at the end of the month, Tiglao said: "It is deplorable that one newspaper has been persistent for several

NO NEED/ A19

Lawmaker passes buck; dodges $1-M question

By Juliet L. Javellana and Rocky Nazareno

DISTRESSED that the heat is now on him, Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama yesterday passed the responsibility of naming the "million-dollar" Cabinet official to the Estrada crony who supposedly provided the $2-million bribe.

"I have already opened the door for people who are victims of this Cabinet official," Villarama said. "It is the victim who should come out now or forever hold his peace."

Villarama turned on Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson who, he said, had been baiting him to name Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez as the official who supposedly received the money in exchange for his endorsement of an energy project in Lagu-

LAWMAKER/ A19

Imelda breakaway group faces pressure, threats

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE CORE group of Marcos loyalists who have turned their back on former first lady Imelda Marcos now fear for their lives.

Since the INQUIRER broke the story last Sunday about their breakaway from the flamboyant widow of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, the group of three women and four men have either been under extreme pressure or threatened outright.

The group is composed of Cherry Cobarrubias, organizer of the Marcos Loyalists national headquarters; broadcaster and poet Rita Gaddi; businessmen Anthony Violago and Nonoy Escolin Jr. and two others who did not want to be named.

Violago, the young heir of a wealthy businessman, revealed that he has received several threats on the phone from a person who's known to him and who's very close to Imelda.

He said one call threatened to have the men in the group—himself, Escolin and Edward Lamarca—"assassinated."

"I owe everything to the Marcoses. I will lose nothing," he quoted one of the threatening messages from the person he declined to identify.

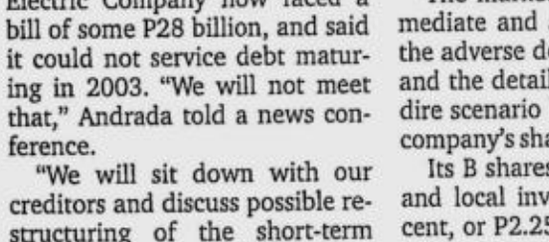
But Violago said that the threats are not going to stop him from speaking up to unmask the true character of Imelda.

"I'll go all out but I first want to secure my sisters," said Violago.

Lamarca also got his share of direct "assassination" threats on the phone, the group said.

Escolin on the other hand was subjected to "very, very heavy pressure" by Imelda herself,

IMELDA/ A6



Berroya 'bomb' could be a dud

By Armand Nocum and TJ Burgonio

CHEMICALS for making bombs or just cleaning materials?

A day after controversial police Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya claimed to have foiled an attempt to smuggle in explosive chemicals from Saudi Arabia, less excitable Bureau of Customs officials are saying that

BERROYA/ A17

Prominent protester takes time out to wed

By Agnes E. Donato

THEY fell in love in the worst of times. The Estrada administration was on the brink of collapse. And the lovers helped in no small measure to bring it there.

When they exchanged "I do's" last night at the St. Augustine Church in Intramuros, they did so in the presence of their partners in the cause, some of the key players in Edsa II.

Still, if Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Teddy Casiño and fellow protest leader Ruth Cervantes had their way, they would have wanted to keep their wedding low key and private.

A simple ceremony was all they wanted,

PROMINENT/ A6

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

NO PROTESTING here, only an exchange of "I do's" between Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño and Ruth Cervantes to the tune of militant love songs during their wedding rites at the St. Augustine Church in Intramuros, Manila. Sponsors include key Edsa players like Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr.

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

The whole country will experience partly cloudy to ... skies with isolated rainshowers and thunder... ... winds blowing from the East and S... ...out the archipelago.

SOURCE: PAGASA

BY: KAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/16/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
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ANTI-TERROR PARTNERS

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US President George W. Bush places his hand on the shoulder of President Macapagal-Arroyo during a photo session at the Apec leaders summit in Los Cabos, Mexico, last month. REUTERS

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"They continue to be as great a threat today as they were a year and a half ago. So by what measure can we say this has been successful so far?" said Daschle, whose party loses the majority come January.

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The course was organized by the US State Department in coordination with the FBI, the statement said.

The Philippines is a staunch ally of the US in its global war against terrorism. *AFP*

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Martin Burnham's parents coming back to RP

ROSE HILL, Kansas—The parents of Martin Burnham plan to return this month to the Philippines, where their missionary son was killed after he and his wife were held captive for more than one year by Moro rebels.

Paul and Oreta Burnham will soon be back in a remote village in Aritao, Nueva Ecija, translating the Bible for members of the Ibaloi tribe, as they've done since 1970.

Martin and his wife Gracia were kidnapped from a Filipino resort where they were celebrating their wedding anniversary in May 2001. While Martin Burnham was killed in a rescue attempt on June 7, Gracia Burnham survived with a bullet wound and is back in the United States.

Paul and Oreta have remained in Rose Hill, caring for their grandchildren in a home filled with photographs—on the walls and end tables.

These show Martin and Gracia—together, healthy and smiling; Martin and Gracia's three children playing soccer and football in Rose Hill, where they were sent after their parents were abducted last year; the Burnham family with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office, months after Martin was killed and Gracia rescued.

When Paul and Oreta Burnham return to their own mission work in the Philippines this month, books and clothes will fill their suitcases.

The photos will stay.

"We have pictures from before all this back in the Philippines," Paul Burnham said. "We'll have these here when we come back."

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Then they'll say goodbye—for now.

"We'll be coming back," Paul Burnham said. "And Gracia's not ready yet, but when she is, they could come there.... We're going to miss them." *AP*

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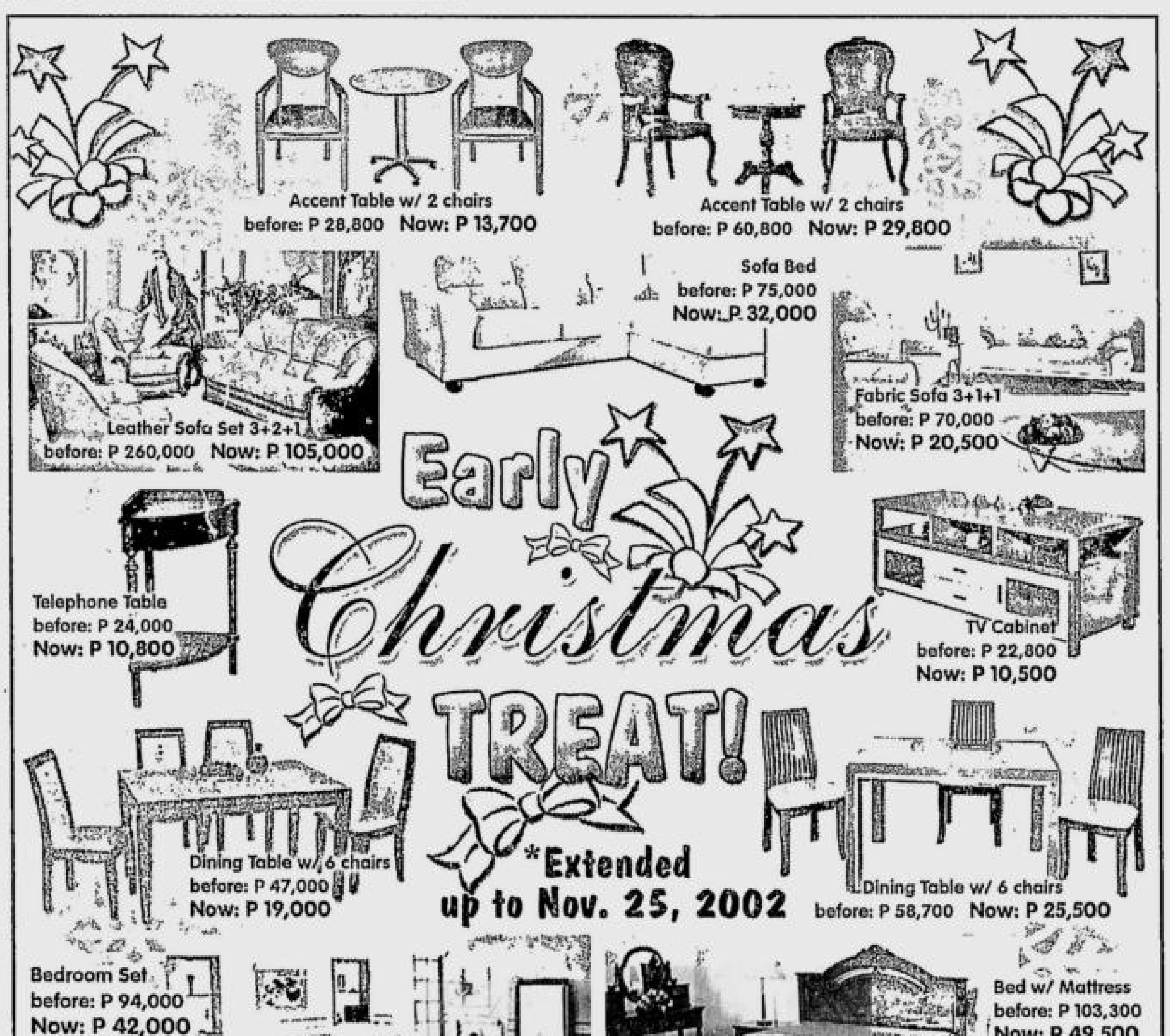

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BRITISH COUNCIL

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...E: PAGASA

PDI RESEARCH/11/16/02

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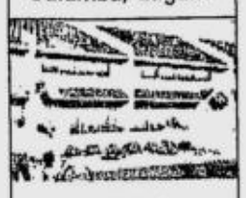

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Divers finally retrieve LaoagAir 'black boxes'

By Philip C. Tubeza

PHILIPPINE Coast Guard divers finally retrieved early yesterday the flight data and cockpit voice recorders of the twin-engine Laoag International Airlines Fokker 27 that crashed into Manila Bay, wrapping up recovery operations.

The flight data recorder records all the conditions on the plane before the crash, while the cockpit voice recorder contains conversations of the pilots with each other as well as with the airport control tower.

Their recovery will help investigators determine the cause of Monday's accident.

Government officials could not agree, however, on where to send the so-called "black boxes" for transcription.

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said the boxes were being processed for immediate shipment to the Safety Transportation Board in Farnborough, England, as the country did not have the facility to transcribe the recordings.

"We are now arranging passage for these boxes together with the escorts to England," Yap told ABS-CBN television.

He said two Filipino investigators would be joining representatives of Rolls-Royce, the maker of the plane's engines, in witnessing the transcription that is expected to take a week.

Yap said that Rolls-Royce had "made the reservation" at the Farnborough facility.

A member of the Department of Transportation and Communications fact-finding committee said that precisely for the latter reason the black boxes should be sent somewhere else.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said that impartial experts should inspect and transcribe the recordings and suggested the US National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C.

Initial investigation showed that engine trouble may have caused the crash on Monday that killed 19 people, including nine foreigners, among them five Australians and three Britons. Fifteen people survived the accident.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the committee would look not just at the possible culpability of the ATO in the crash but also of the Civil Aeronautics Board. *With AP*

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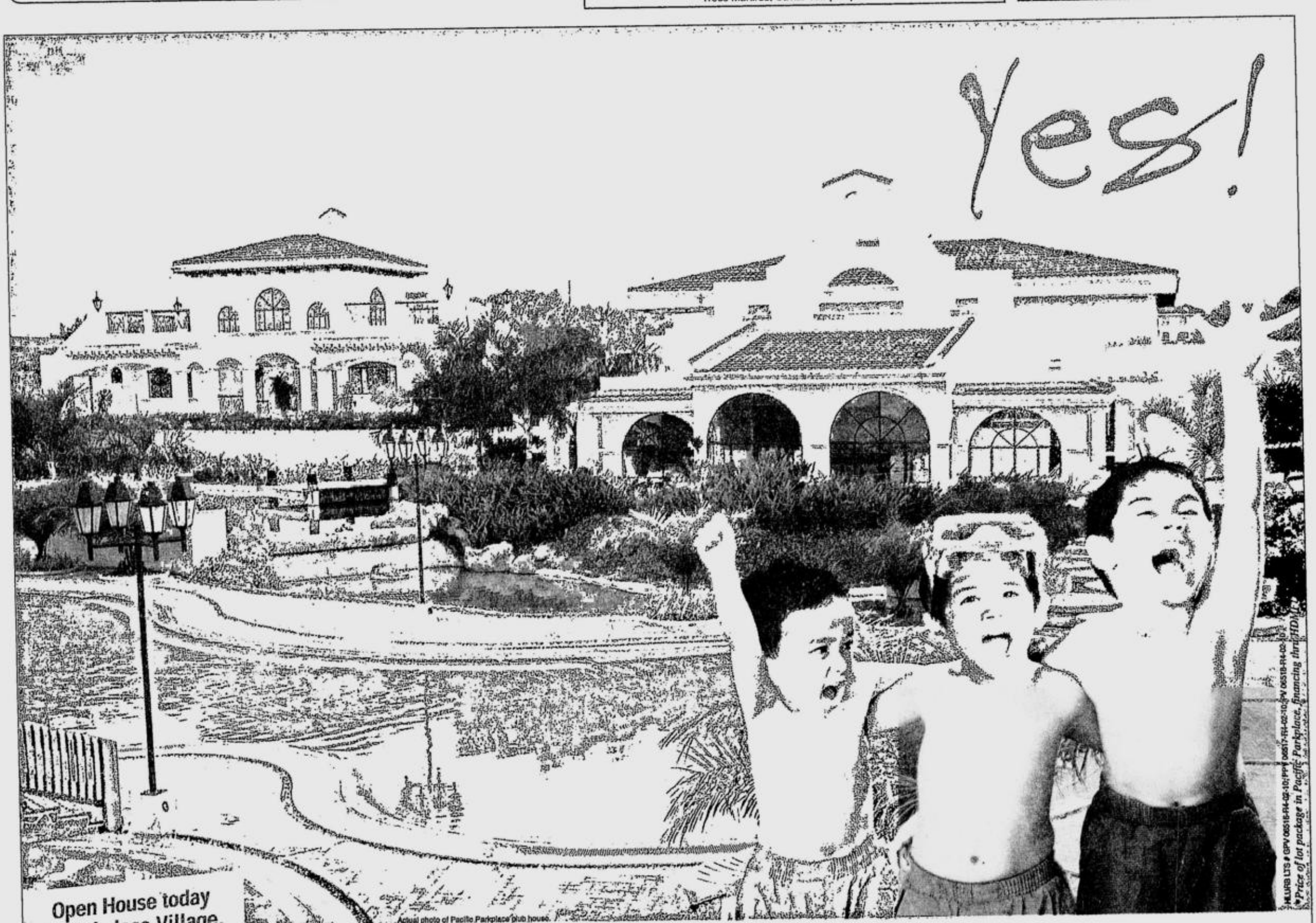

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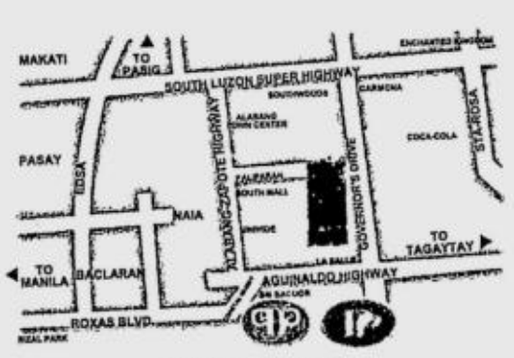

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Top police official linked to Lacson sacked

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE Director Lucas Managuelod was relieved yesterday of his post because of his alleged close ties to opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

Managuelod, director of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), has questioned his relief and asked Local Government Secretary Joey Lina to investigate.

"It doesn't feel right; I have not done anything wrong," he said in a phone interview.

According to some officials, Managuelod was reportedly monitored meeting with Lacson, now a bitter critic of the Macapagal administration.

In his letter to Lina, Managuelod expressed readiness to retire from service and forfeit his benefits if the allegations against him would be proven true. "This is a real man's game. I want due process," he said.

Managuelod declined to specify the reason why Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. relieved him. "You can only surmise. The order came from the higher-ups," he said.

Managuelod apparently learned of his relief around noon Friday. Sources said he had even attended the celebration of the wedding anniversary of Ebdane and his wife, Alma, inside the camp Thursday night.

Ebdane also relieved Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, director for the Cavite police office, who is also perceived as an ally of Lacson, and named Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales as his replacement.

No more case, says ex-PEA exec; suit vs Tagud hit

By Dona Pazzibugan

A RESIGNED Public Estates Authority director has claimed that the administrative case that the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission filed against the PEA directors for the alleged overprice of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard was no longer necessary.

Rodolfo Tuazon said the case has become "moot and academic" since all the PEA directors have either resigned or were considered resigned by Malacañang.

The former Samar congressman said administrative cases are meant to remove appointed officials from their posts.

"With our resignation, the administrative charges have become moot and academic," Tuazon said in a statement.

Also yesterday, the Public Interest Law Center questioned the inclusion of Sulficio Tagud Jr., the PEA director who exposed the alleged overprice, in the charges that the PAGC filed against the PEA directors.

"The inclusion of Tagud in the formal charge is without rhyme or reason... He is the whistleblower here. Why charge him along with the culprits?" said lawyer Rachel Pastores of the PILC, lead counsel for Tagud, in a statement.

Pastores also questioned why the PAGC insisted on hearing the administrative case when "no person had filed a complaint" before it and when the Ombudsman's Office has already initiated an investigation.

"(PAGC chair Dario) Rama is seriously befuddled about the powers and functions of his office. (The) PAGC cannot file a formal charge which the PAGC shall itself hear and decide. The only explanation for Mr. Rama's behavior is that he is ingratiating himself to the President and bullying Mr. Tagud into silence," the statement said.

It accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of allegedly wanting to "keep the investigation of the PEA scam under her control because of the involvement of Malacañang officials in the scam."

The President on Wednesday said the entire PEA board was considered resigned as of Oct. 21, the date when she asked for their resignation.

Directors Joemari Gerochi and Martin Sanciego Jr. had promptly resigned.

But Tuazon, board chair Ernest Villareal, directors Angelito Villanueva and Tagud and general manager Benjamin Cariño initially said they would wait for the results of the PAGC probe.

Tuazon announced his resignation only last Wednesday.

Despite their resignation, Tuazon said the PEA directors intended to answer the administrative charges. They have been given until Nov. 22 to answer the charges of allegedly overpricing the P584.4 million Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard project.

Rama earlier said the agency had found prima facie evidence against 13 top PEA officials for adding another P210.4 million in the contract price without the President's approval, allegedly in violation of the contract.

PEA, under then general manager Celso Doble, awarded the contract for the PDMB project to JD Legaspi Construction in 1999.

The PAGC said the P584.4 million contract price was already overpriced, based on the assessment of the Department of Public Works and Highway.

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The DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee is inviting local and foreign insurance companies/brokers to participate in a Conceptual Presentation for the renewal of reinsurance for the National Power Corporation's Industrial All-Risks Insurance Policy, to be held between December 2 to December 6, 2002.

Interested parties are required to submit the following:

1) Letter of Intent
2) Latest Annual Report
3) Broker's License
4) Local Affiliate/Subsidiary Company
5) Errors and Omission Policy
6) List of Clients
7) Certification from the Insurance Commission that it has no pending administrative case/complaint, or list of pending administrative cases/complaints.
8) Sworn statement of the proponent that it has no other pending case/complaint or a list of pending cases/ complaints with the courts, quasi-judicial body or any other government agency or instrumentality

Letter of intent and documentary requirements should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Finance and Chairman, DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee, 6th Floor, DOF Building, Roxas Boulevard, Manila, on or before November 22, 2002.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any and all letters of intent.

Inquirer - Nov. 15&16, 2002

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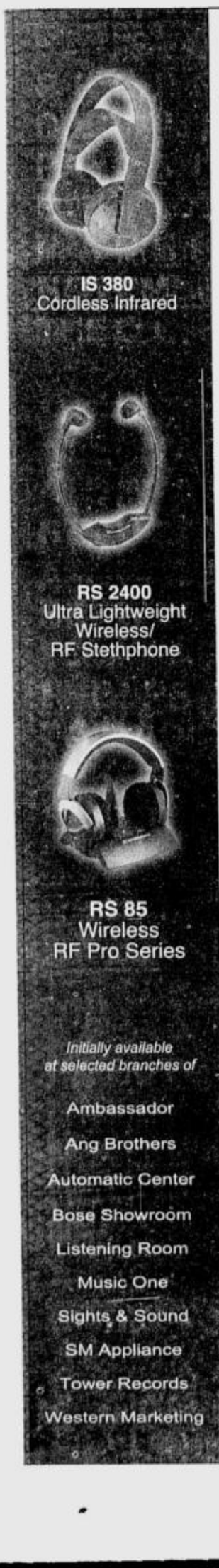

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Foreign traders assured

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured foreign businessmen her government was working to stamp out corruption following a survey that the Philippines' competitiveness has fallen.

The President said that there were no "sacred cows" in her government, pointing out that she even had her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, face investigation following charges of graft.

It was later found that charges against her husband were false and politically motivated, but the move had served to enhance her "moral authority to hold anyone accountable where corruption is found to take place," Ms Macapagal said.

"Let me assure you I'm working diligently to (give you the) professional and clean government you deserve," the President told a gathering of foreign business chambers represented in the Philippines.

She said her government was committed to ensure that "its dealings with business are efficient, clear and transparent," particularly in the areas of taxation, customs, immigration and labor relations."

The assurance came a day after the influential Makati Business Club said the Philippines has slipped from 48th place to 61st out of 80 countries ranked for competitiveness.

Ms Macapagal said she took great exception to criticisms that her administration was characterized by "gloom and doom and drift."

"I inherited an economy heading for bankruptcy and political environment nearing chaos," she said. "But I have instilled political order and fiscal discipline."

She said that while her government was not always 100 percent right, "we have been an active reformist government."

The Makati Business Club said the Philippines received low marks in its "public institutions index" which rated independence of the judiciary, fair bidding on public contracts, corruption and impact of organized crime on business.

The country, however, "rated favorably in terms of the ability of foreign direct investments to facilitate technology transfer, the prevalence of foreign technology licensing, the E-Commerce Act and the quality of competition among Internet service providers," the survey said. *AFP and Carlito Pablo*

Bus operators OK plan to use natural gas fuel

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY department yesterday said a group of 130 bus operators have agreed to convert part of their fleets to adapt them to natural gas fuel and to tailor their new vehicle purchases to the government's program to promote natural gas as a transport fuel.

The bus operators and owners signed and presented to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. a manifesto of support for the domestic natural gas industry a month after the government launched the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport.

The group said it was committed to supporting the development of cleaner alternatives to gasoline and diesel and pollution-free transport.

The group also said it would "maintain high quality service by keeping their staff highly skilled in natural gas vehicle operation, repair and maintenance."

According to DOE data, conversion of a diesel-powered bus to natural gas would cost P300,000 while a brand-new bus running on the new fuel would cost from P60,000 to P300,000.

Perez said the initiative would help accelerate the government's drive to use indigenous energy sources and at the same time boost the growth of the transport sector.

NEWSBRIEFS

RP to return Angelica

THE GOVERNMENT plans to turn over to Malaysia a 13-year-old girl allegedly raped in a detention center in Sabah, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said yesterday. The girl, originally thought to be Filipino, was confirmed to be Malaysian after she was sent to the Philippines as part of a crackdown on illegal migrants. The alleged rape of the girl, known only as Angelica, sparked a diplomatic row between Manila and Kuala Lumpur. President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed her "personal outrage" Sept. 4 in a letter to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the second official protest she has made about alleged mistreatment of Filipinos in the crackdown.

"Angelica will be turned over to Malaysia after Ramadan. I talked to (Justice) Secretary (Hernando) Perez regarding this," Ople told reporters. Ramadan is scheduled to end the first week of December. "Based on the evidence produced by the Malaysia government, it showed that the girl is a Malaysian citizen and that she was born in Sandakan." *AP*

MILF wants talks resumed

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front is urging Malacañang to resume formal negotiations as soon as possible so as not to destroy the gains of the peace process. "We suggest the next round of formal peace talks be held on Dec. 7," Murad Ebrahim, MILF's chief negotiator, told Church-run Radio dxMS here from Malaysia. "The MILF sees the need to fast-track the peace process because the situation on the ground is deteriorating," Murad said. Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, who chairs the government peace panel, earlier said the government was indeed working double time to "come up with a genuine solution to the Bangsamoro problem." Murad said the MILF peace panel is alarmed by the frequent "name calling" which, he said, will affect the confidence established by both sides. "We are always labeled as terrorists and have links with the al-Qaida network... I strongly deny such tag because we are not in anyway connected with Osama bin Laden," Murad said. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Travel execs air warning

CEBU CITY—Asia-Pacific airline chiefs warned at annual talks here yesterday that air travel may become more expensive if governments do not bear the cost of implementing aviation security measures to counter terrorist threats. They said governments should shoulder the costs as security was a state responsibility. Airlines and passengers were already paying excessive travel taxes and could not be burdened with additional costs, said the airline chiefs meeting for the first time after the deadly bombing in Bali on Oct. 12. "Aviation security and its funding, which includes the protection of its citizens in the air and on the ground, should be the governments' responsibility," according to one of eight resolutions adopted at the one day meeting of chief executives of 17 airlines under the ambit of the Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA). The resolutions, among others, called for harmonized standards among international regulators to avoid mid-air collision, rejected a US proposal to arm pilots and other crew members as an additional safeguard against terrorist hijackings and called for a set of mandatory and harmonized global aviation security measures. *AFP*

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Prominent protester takes time out to wed

From page A1

they said. But not when their sponsors included Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo (who couldn't attend) and Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) head Pastor "Boy" Saycon.

Other sponsors were Justice Romeo Capulong, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, lawyers Romeo Roxas and Josie Trinidad-Lichauco, Leticia Locsin, Maan Hontiveros and Dr. Leni Jara.

Adding to the wedding entourage interesting mix was Casiño's longtime friend, lawyer Roberto "Argee" Guevarra, who's a stalwart of Bayan's rival militant group Sanlakas.

"Ruth and I wanted to keep this a 'secret' from the press because we do not want it trivialized in any way," Teddy had told the INQUIRER several hours before the wedding.

"Ruth even told me that if she saw at least one media person covering the wedding, I would have to walk to the altar by myself," chuckled the groom.

Officiated by Estrada Resign Movement spokesperson Fr. Joe Dizon and Fr. James Uy, it started at 7 p.m. followed by a reception at the Orchidarium in Rizal Park. Despite the numerous bodyguards of the attending VIPs, the ceremony still managed to be a private affair, attended only by 200 of the couple's closest friends, most of whom came from the Leftist movements. Accordingly, even the love songs were militant, like "Rosas ng Digma."

Both former presidents of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), Teddy and Ruth had known each other for years before they became a couple. As campus journalists, both wrote about the plight of the poor in their respective publications—the UP Los Baños Perspective and "The Scholastican."

In an interview with the Sunday Inquirer Magazine last February, they related that they only got close during a CEGP conference in Cavite. Love blossomed at the height of the campaign against the Estrada administration in 1999.

As Bayan secretary general, Teddy had to coordinate closely with Ruth, who was then the CEGP president, on all activities relating to press freedom issues.

Teddy and Ruth had said that they share many common interests among them, a devotion to the cause of the oppressed. That proved to be "the strongest foundation for the relationship."

Imelda breakaway group faces pressure, threats

From page A1

who's his aunt. The mothers of Mrs. Marcos and Escolin's mother are sisters. But Escolin's very own family is supporting him all the way.

"(There is) pressure for me to leave the group because of family ties," Escolin said.

Pressure is also being brought to bear on Cobarrubias, who said, she's praying for inner strength to carry on exposing Imelda for the sake of the country.

The falling out between the former first lady and her inner circle ends many years of servitude—27 years in Gaddi's case.

PLDT settlement?

It happened on the heels of a reported P2-billion settlement Mrs. Marcos got from the Ramon Cojuangco side of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. late last year. Cojuangco's heirs are his wife Imelda and son Tonyboy Cojuangco.

The group confirmed that Imelda received P2 billion as a compromise settlement for her ownership claim over PLDT shares. She filed a cross-claim with the Sandiganbayan, saying the shares held by Ramon Cojuangco were in fact owned by Marcos.

The settlement was reportedly paid in cash and brought to Mrs. Marcos in computer boxes. The INQUIRER learned that Violago was one of those tasked to transport the boxes from Mrs. Marcos' condo in Pacific Plaza to the Marcos' ancestral mansion in San Juan.

The group refuses to go into the details at this point, but a book that Gaddi is writing will tell all, the group promised. Gaddi said she has already written three chapters.

The loyalists said their public disclosure of their rift had nothing to do with money.

Tough

They knew it won't be easy going against the other half of what used to be the most powerful couple in the country.

But there was a confident, defiant air among the hardcore Marcos loyalists, who stressed that they believed and would continue to believe in the late President. But his widow is another matter.

Cobarrubias and Gaddi said their falling-out with Mrs. Marcos began this year when they noted, among other acts of betrayal, that for some unknown reason, she was "playing games" with them and pitting them against each other.

Secret missions

Last May, Mrs. Marcos sent Cobarrubias, Gaddi, Escolin and Lamarca to a secret mission in Hong Kong but they got different and conflicting instructions. She told Cobarrubias not to trust Gaddi and vice versa, and even asked the two men who were already in Hong Kong to return home.

They were sent supposedly to meet a "Chinaman" whom they discovered later did not exist.

They refused for now to talk about the nature of their mission, especially Cobarrubias who had been sent on "sensitive" missions to Switzerland.

Letter bomb defused at Myanmar embassy

From page A1

He said the Makati police received a call from the embassy at 3:30 p.m. seeking assistance about a suspicious-looking letter mailed from Thailand.

Gutierrez said embassies had earlier been advised by the police to be wary of letters coming from Thailand following the receipt in Hong Kong and Tokyo of letter bombs postmarked Thailand. He said embassies were told to notify the police in case they receive such letters.

Security tightened

This developed as security was tightened around the US Embassy in Manila, the Philippine Stock Exchange, and shopping malls and commercial establishments in Metro Manila following the confession of an arrested Abu Sayyaf leader that his group was planning to attack these establishments.

Abdulmukim Edris, head of the Abu Sayyaf's explosives team who was arrested in Pasay City the other day, said his group was planning to stage the attacks using electronically detonated truck bombs beginning this month. *(See related story on page A2.)*

Senior Supt. Raul Bacalso, chief of the PNP Security Agencies and Guards Supervisory Division, issued an advisory to security agencies to intensify security checks in public and private installations in urban areas.

Police officials said Edris' cohorts might still carry out the plot.

"They are not here yet, but they are being monitored," said an official, who had earlier disclosed that Edris was "part of an advance team" sent by the Abu Sayyaf to mount the attacks.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said Edris had been "very cooperative" in providing information to intelligence agents.

Edris, who carried a P1-million reward for his arrest, has been tagged by Abu Sayyaf recruits as the one responsible for the bomb attacks on the Puericulture Food Center on Oct. 28, the Fort Pilar shrine on Oct. 20, and the Shop-o-Rama and Shoppers Plaza on Oct. 17, all in Zamboanga City.

Manila police, meanwhile, arrested last Wednesday four men, including an Army sergeant, who were allegedly out to bomb the US Embassy and the Pandacan Oil Depot in Manila.

The suspects, who were also linked to the Golden Highway bus bombing in Quezon City last month, were nabbed with explosives, including two pounds of TNT.

A Western Police District intelligence report identified the suspects as Army Sgt. Edilberto Soriano of Univille Subdivision in Cotabato City and brothers Mahaladin and Magrahid Hassan of Simuay, Sultan Kudarat.

They were caught while disembarking from a ship at the North Harbor.

That same day, Salonga Naga was arrested in his home in Culiat, Quezon City.

The police confiscated from Soriano and the Hassan brothers two pounds of TNT, a quarter pound of C4, four blasting caps, a detonating cord, a mortar shell, a rocket-propelled grenade, two pipe bombs and a fuse buster.

The police recovered from Naga a .38-cal. revolver, an unlicensed 12-gauge shotgun, a grenade launcher and a Moro Islamic Liberation Front identification card. *Reports from Leila Salaverria, TJ Burgonio, Philip Tubeza, Reuters, AP*

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GMA accepts surrender of 149 NPA guerrillas

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday accepted the surrender of 149 New People's Army guerrillas and promised them livelihood assistance.

The rebels had surrendered in batches in the past two weeks, citing hardship in the mountains, said Army Col. Efren Orbon said.

The group was presented to the President near Baras, Rizal.

"Welcome back my countrymen and countrywomen," she told the former rebels as she handed them a check of P2,500 each as part of government assistance. *AFP*

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See Business Section pages 6 and 7

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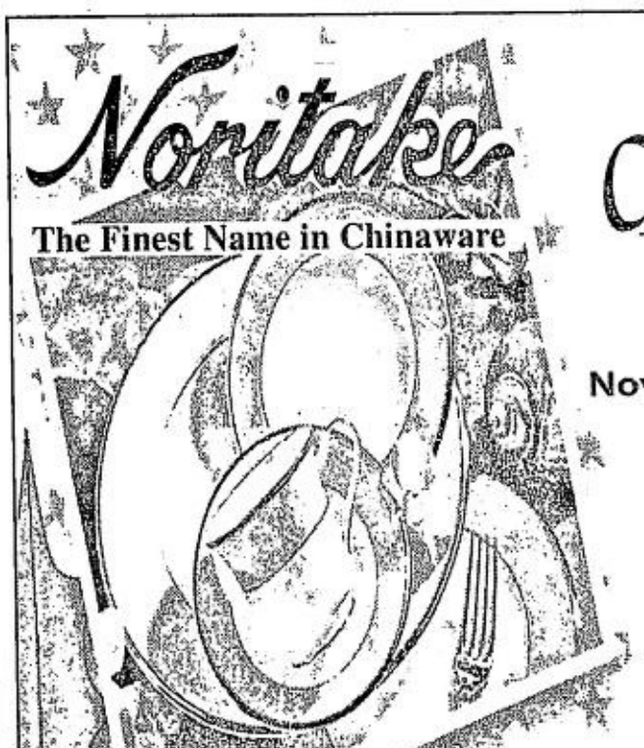

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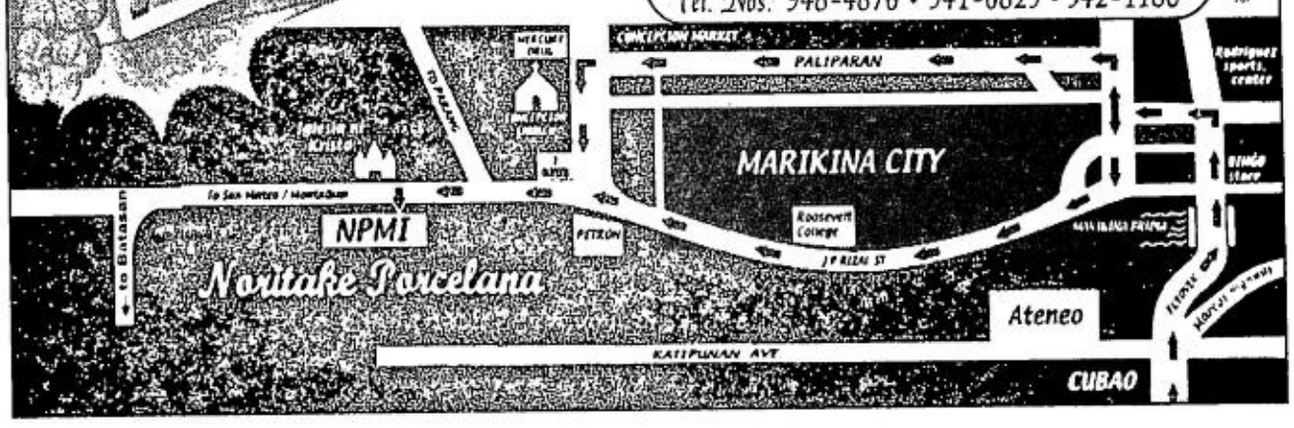

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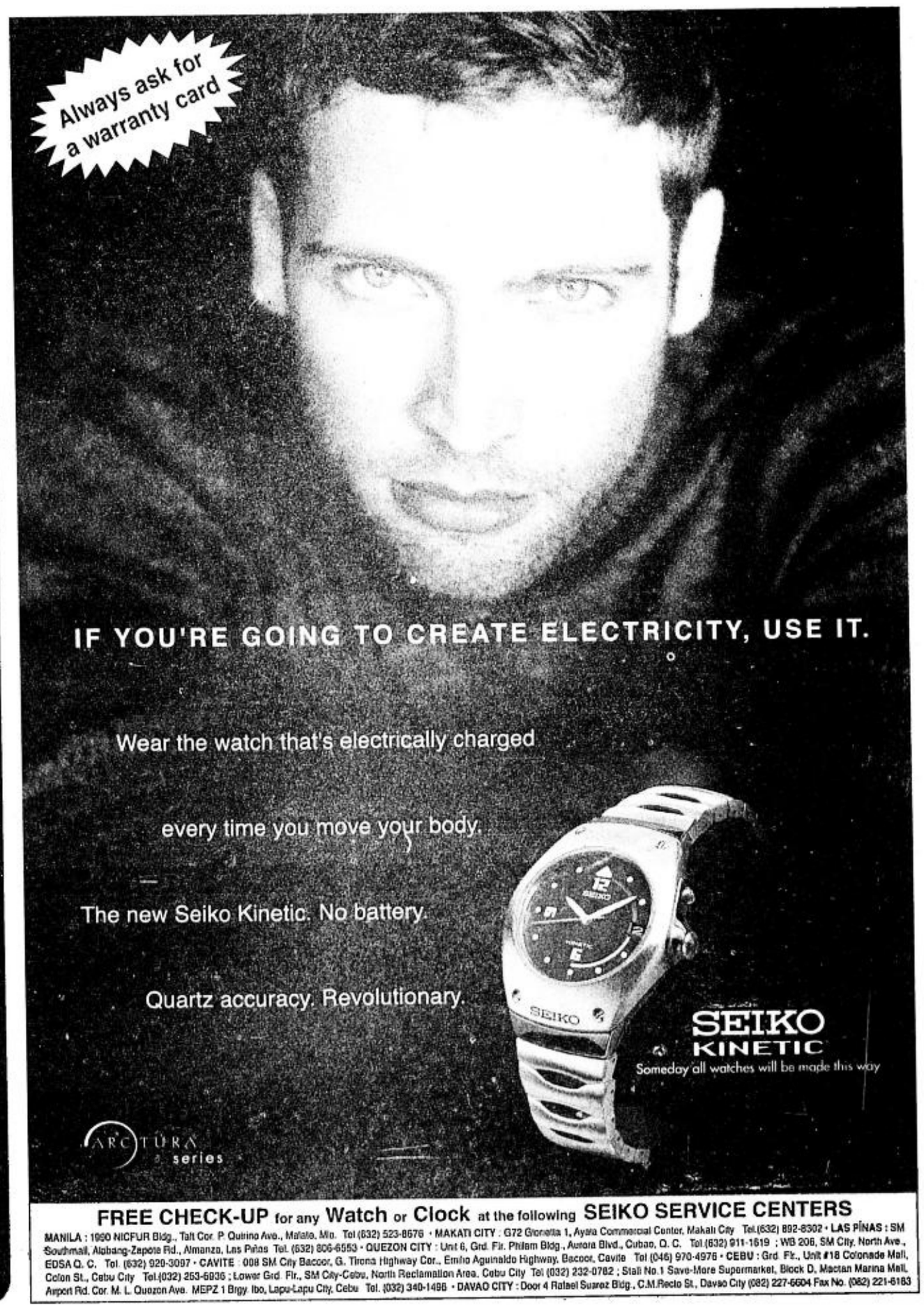

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sloganeering

EDITORIAL

A DROP in business confidence in the administration in November has increased the pressure on President Macapagal-Arroyo to revamp the Cabinet and make some dramatic announcements aimed at countering widespread perception of corruption and reversing the decline and a sense of drift.

The Business World-Roper ASW Business Confidence Index, based on an opinion poll among businessmen taken last Oct. 28-31, shows a drop of 9.4 points to 84.8 from 94.2 points. The index fell back to the 84.8-point low for the year. The drop reflects the growing anxieties of businessmen over a number of developments, including the failure of government to curb the runaway deficit, the series of terrorist bombings in the country and the threat of a war in Iraq.

In a separate survey, the Global Competitiveness Report for 2002-2003 of the World Economic Forum, ranked the Philippines 61st among 80 countries. The Philippines slipped from 48th place (out of 74 countries) in 2001. Two of the factors held responsible for the slide are rampant corruption and the budget deficit.

But more unsettling for the President is the finding in the business confidence index that she does not stand a chance of winning in the 2004 elections. In reply to the question, "Who do you think will win the 2004 election," fewer than 13 percent of the businessmen surveyed said it would be Ms Macapagal.

These findings come in the wake of earlier opinion polls showing the President's popularity declining.

Presumably, these warning signals have forced the President to consider dramatic moves to revitalize her government and regain the initiative. Internal debates over how to reverse the decline are responsible for the reports of a Cabinet revamp and the announcement on Nov. 30 of dramatic policy initiatives, details of which have not been disclosed. According to Presidential Spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao, such initiatives are linked to the objective of building a "strong republic."

A Cabinet revamp makes for a strong state if it results in dropping deadwood and non-performing members and those over whose heads hang the shadow of corruption. But it is doubtful if the soaring deficit can be brought down by some quick fixes or even a change of economic managers.

The mantra of "strong republic" has been reduced to sloganeering. The building of a strong state requires strong institutions and a presidency that leads and sets direction rather than remaining ambiguous over transactions that are now the center of controversy.

We refer specifically to the outrageously onerous contract that excessively favors Piatco in the operation of the Terminal 3 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Despite findings by a review of the presidential adviser on special projects, Gloria Tan Climaco, highlighting 28 onerous provisions in the Piatco contract, all conferring on the company virtual monopoly of services at the terminal, the President has not been shocked by the report. The new solicitor general has recommended the abrogation of the contract on grounds of illegal amendments, but on the level of the presidency, she has not exercised leadership or manifested outrage. There seems to be a lack of will to assume a strong regulatory role in overseeing contracts.

An examination of the Piatco contract shows that the government virtually abdicated its regulatory functions by not acting to correct the offending provisions that give the contractor excessive advantages. The leadership vacuum in the Piatco controversy makes a joke of the slogan of building a "strong state." Maybe, the ability of the government to regulate the distribution of business opportunities and provide a level playing field is not seen by the President as a manifestation of a strong state. But certainly, outbursts of temper are not an essential element undergirding a strong state.

Whether there will be a Cabinet revamp or not, we should be waiting for the major policy announcement on National Heroes Day. The public should expect at least some decisions on certain transactions that should signal whether the administration has the political will to counter the growing public perception that it is tolerating corruption.

A half-hearted salute

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I AM among the many students of the 1987 Constitution who believe that one of its questionable provisions is Art. II, Sec. 3 which grandly says that "the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory."

As worded, it seems to suggest that the AFP is supposed to protect the people and the State only against external aggression. Impairment of our sovereignty and the integrity of our national territory may be caused only by foreign states or those who believe they are foreigners and have a right to secede from the Philippines.

Significantly, no mention is made of internal aggression, which is the current and, indeed, the chronic problem of our country. The AFP can hardly be expected to defend us from invasion because we simply do not have the means or the training to repel the enemy. The military cannot even subdue the Abu Sayyaf, which started with only a sprinkling of outlaws that have now considerably increased in number and armaments.

Even during martial law, the NPA continued to challenge the AFP, which failed to stamp out the insurrection despite the violations of human rights by the military that the Supreme Court then ignored or "legitimized." It was no surprise that other lawless elements like the MILF and the MNLF were encouraged to also defy the government and are now again mocking the AFP.

If that provision also intended to place on the AFP the burden of protecting the people against internal aggression, it is plain that this duty is being misperformed. There is no question that the soldiers are merely making the motions, as it were, without any notable success in quelling the subversion. The AFP has been wasting bullets and years in fighting that problem.

That is why communist leader Joma Sison, whose social security benefits have been cut off and his bank accounts frozen by the Dutch government, has called on his followers to step up their attacks against the AFP. He certainly will never take over the government of our Republic, but he is at least succeeding in putting the fear of God in our military.

I do not know how accurate the reports of AFP encounters with the dissidents are but, assuming their veracity, the casualty figures are none-too-comforting. Given the relative strengths of the antagonists, I would imagine that the AFP with its superior number and weapons should always emerge victorious. In many instances, in fact, it is the dissidents who have put the military to shame.

It should be conceded that it is not only the failures of the AFP that have increased dissidence in this country. The greater blame lies with the civilian government, whose lip service to the poor, political shenanigans and fiscal irregularities have disillusioned many people and induced them to join the subversive movements.

But the role of the AFP in provoking such alienation cannot be disregarded. On top of its military blunders, many soldiers have been found in cahoots with criminals, if they are not actually their ringleaders. Checkpoints mulctings, hamleting, *zona*, drug and alcohol rampages, bank robberies, and kidnap activities, among other serious offenses, often expose the military not as protectors of the people but as their predators.

In my view, the worse irregularity of the AFP is its intrusion in civilian affairs. The Constitution reaffirms the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, but this guaranty is often ignored and violated. The President of the Philippines, even as commander in chief, seems to be afraid of the AFP for its potential to mount a coup d'état. This may explain the militarization of the government with the appointment of jobless generals to unfamiliar civilian positions.

Gen. Dionisio Santiago believes that the office of AFP chief of staff should be filled by one selected by his peers as against the choice to be made by the President. That presumptuousness endangers our civilian government. On the other hand, Ms Gloria is being criticized for appointing chiefs of staff for brief periods only, apparently, according to columnist Ana Marie Pamintuan of The Star, to reward the generals who helped her during Edsa II.

That dubious provision was probably intended to express the gratitude of the new government to the Armed Forces of the Philippines for its help in overthrowing the martial law regime. The framers may have forgotten that it was the same AFP that made it possible for Marcos to wrest absolute power in 1972 and for 13 miserable years enabled generals and enlisted men to swagger under his oppressive rule while giving him all the armed protection he needed against the civilian population.

When the AFP finally deserted him in 1986, it was more out of political expediency than patriotic altruism. We may thank it for its convenient somersault, but not exceedingly so as if it were the lone savior of our democracy. For the suddenly repentant AFP, it was a case of too late the hero.

Seach for Saddam's scientists

NEWS ANALYSIS

Michael Adler

VIENNA—Former United Nations weapons inspector Gary Dillon said that figuring out who are the new scientists working for Saddam Hussein may be one of the toughest tasks facing arms experts when they go back to work in Iraq.

"The most important thing is to recognize that we know a whole slew of names of people who were involved in Iraq's clandestine nuclear program, up till 1998...(but) we don't know anything about new recruits," Dillon told AFP in a phone interview from his home in Gloucestershire in western England. "Maybe there aren't any new recruits. It would be wonderful if there are no new recruits. It would be wonderful if what Saddam Hussein says is true, that he has no weapons of mass destruction."

But he stressed: "You can't just go and look and interview the old guys. You've got to look at facilities that have a capability of conducting some component of a clandestine nuclear program and see what the guys currently are doing, see what the new guys are doing, see what happened to the guys who left university in 1998, what are they doing now."

"It's a huge job—an absolutely huge job," said Dillon, 64, who worked in Iraq from 1993 until the inspections were broken off in 1998.

UN arms experts will be heading to Iraq on Monday to prepare for inspections of suspected weapons sites after Baghdad accepted a Security Council resolution demanding its disarmement.

The advance team of 24 experts is made up of 10 inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, who search for nuclear weapons, and 14 from the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), who check for chemical and biological weapons, as well as missiles.

Dillon said the inspectors should be given a chance to uncover the Iraqi weapons programs and that people should understand that there will not be an "answer in 60 days. It's going to take a long time, a minimum of half a year and sensibly a year."

> Nobody knows what Iraq now has in its arsenal after four years of being free from inspections

Under the new UN resolution, Iraq has until Dec. 8 to make a full disclosure of its weapons of mass destruction.

Dillon, who worked for the IAEA and is trained in nuclear radiation physics, said the key to carrying out successful inspections was "face-to-face" talks. "Far and away the best thing to do is face-to-face, see what people are doing, talk to the guys, look at their workplace, look at assets in the workplace, take samples from their workplace, smear samples, material samples and send them for analysis," Dillon said.

During the previous round of inspections, the monitors checked to see if the Iraqi scientists and engineers were being truthful about their jobs by "asking them to show you what they've been talking about in terms of what their current duties were, and obviously we were very interested in their past duties."

Then there is analysis. "The most powerful tool we had was access to a really sensitive analytical process that could detect one thousand millionth part of a gram of radioactive material, particularly of fissile material," Dillon said. This made it "essentially impossible for Iraqis to adequately sanitize a location where they'd been using fissile material and for us not to find it."

The inspectors also focused on less sensitive sampling, mounting radiation detectors on road vehicles, helicopters and, under a project being developed in 1998, on fixed-wing aircraft in order "to cover vast areas," he said.

IAEA inspectors uncovered a "large nuclear program to provide the nuclear weapons useable material and it was a major industry, a clandestine industry," said Dillon, that was intended to help Baghdad produce nuclear weapons. "We finished up (in 1998) with what I believe was a good, coherent picture of what Iraq had set out to do and what it had actually achieved and also we were fairly sure about what they hadn't achieved and that was production of a nuclear weapons."

Dillon said he was fairly certain Saddam "had made chemical weapons and was on the threshold of biological weapons." But he added that nobody knows what Iraq now has in its arsenal after four years of being free from inspections.

Dillon said the key for the inspectors was to be "tough-minded, knowing what you need to know and knowing what to ask, not giving in."

As for the possibility of war, he said: "I have zero sympathy for the Iraqi regime but I honestly hope there isn't a war."

AFP

Congress should leave Cabinet revamp to GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE IMMEDIATE reaction of people to the image of "No. 1 Abu Bomber" Abdulmukim Edris in last Thursday evening's TV newscast was, "*Ang gwapo*, so clean-cut and innocent-looking." The verdict was that Edris, who was reportedly spearheading bombing activities in Manila in the coming weeks, didn't look like a typical terrorist associated with the Bin Laden gang.

The authorities must be congratulated for this excellent job. While they have yet to track down everyone else in Edris' group, at least their plan has been derailed. His arrest shows government's firm resolve to counter terrorism problem as well as its capability. It should help erase doubts in the US government and the European Union, which has put the Philippines on the list of countries whose citizens are going to be given a tough time with their visa applications.

I met Spanish Ambassador Pantoja-Rodriguez at the Makati Garden Club's successful Festival of Trees recently and he reiterated his government's determination to help the Philippines get out of that notorious list. As you can see, he said, the EU is not a homogenous entity.

* * *

No wonder GMA's cholesterol level is elevated. Members of both chambers of Congress have been kibitzing on the Cabinet revamp and won't leave her alone. It was Deputy Majority Leader Rodolfo Albano who gave his colleagues the statesmanlike reminder to stop "making *pakialam*" and observe inter-department courtesy.

Congress should leave the revamp to GMA and attend to the problems in its own backyard, which are tremendous. While five bills were passed into law recently, many more that are most crucial to the economy, including flagship bills, are hanging. The House has passed the bills on Transco, the creation of the Department of Housing, the Railways Act and the Securitization Act, but the Senate has yet to pass them, owing to so much in-fighting there. On the other hand, still to get through the bicameral conference committee is the long-overdue Special Purpose Asset Vehicle Bill, which promises to be the single biggest trigger for the economy with the potential release of as much as $5 billion of bad bank assets. Also pending in the conference committee is the Absentee Voting Bill that's fraught with many problems. The honorable members of Congress should buckle down to work, instead of kibitzing in somebody else's backyard.

* * *

In a recent conversation, first PCGG Chair Jovito Salonga raised a very good point when he noted that the PCGG, the BIR and other agencies of government appear too fixated on the P2 billion "mystery" settlement reportedly received by Imelda Marcos from the PLDT (which she has denied). But he asserts that if the government is after large revenues, the better thing is to zero in on Imelda's liability for the $800 million (or P42.4 billion) she claims to have kept in various international banks abroad, without the government's knowledge. Compared to her admitted deposits and tax liabilities, P2 billion is merely "crumbs," Salonga said.

* * *

Salonga recalled that on March 26, 1998, Marcos told foreign correspondents in Manila that "there is more money that the (RP) government is not yet aware of, but for the time being, I can admit that there is only $800 million in various international banks." He also noted that in 1999, the Supreme Court, in a decision penned by Justice Justo Torres, upheld with finality the P23.5-billion income and inheritance tax assessment made by the BIR in 1993 based on what was then known about Marcos' ill-gotten wealth. Noting the 20 percent interest imposed by the Tax Code, Salonga said, a professor on taxation at the UP College of Law, Annette Gozon-Abrogar, has computed that these 1993 back taxes should now amount to P121.2 billion due to delinquency interest (this computation obviously was based on 1993 figures only, not on Imelda's claim of $800 million). Up to now that wealth has not been investigated by the BIR, the PCGG, the Ombudsman and the Senate blue ribbon committee, and the taxes remain unpaid.

* * *

Salonga also said the government should take advantage of newly discovered evidence on the "huge fraud" committed by the Marcoses and the Credit Suisse Bank and its subsidiaries, in "obvious complicity with the Zurich prosecutors" one day before the Swiss Federal Council imposed a freeze on the Marcos deposits in Swiss banks on March 24, 1986. Salonga noted that Canadian lawyer Marie-Gabrielle Kohler, a former lawyer for KPMG Zurich, a big Swiss accounting firm, has revealed that on March 23, 1986, the firm secretly transferred $400 million from the Swiss bank in Zurich to a subsidiary trust, Limag Management AG in Liechtenstein.

* * *

Kohler, who worked for KPMG in 1996, learned that 10 years earlier Swiss bank officials were tipped off that the Swiss Banking Commission, bowing to pressure, was about to freeze all Marcos accounts in Switzerland. In the dead of night on March 23, 1986, lawyers of KPMG, then called Fides, moved the money from the Swiss bank to Limag. Salonga opined that the $800 million admitted by Imelda jibes with the revelation of a well-known Philadelphia law firm, whose services had been engaged by Kohler, that "with interest, the secreted $400 million would be worth twice as much today."

The information on Kohler's revelations was forwarded to Salonga by PCGG's first Swiss lawyer, Sergio Salvioni, who also disclosed that a Swiss writer is writing a book on the Marcos issue. The interesting thing now is whether the government agencies concerned will pursue this interesting new lead on Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

A mission of peace

YOUNG BLOOD

Raymund Espinosa Narag

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE seen war. Now, I am an advocate of peace.

The moment I learned that the decision on my case would be promulgated by the regional trial court of Quezon City, I prayed to God that He give me back my freedom. I promised that I would become His spokesperson for peace. I would share my story with others so that they could avoid the fate that befell me. I don't want any fraternity member to ever be locked up in jail again.

Immediately upon my release from the Quezon City Jail, I presented myself to the UP president and offered him my services. "I may no longer be a student, what with seven years of my youth already taken away from me," I said. "But I know what afflicts the fraternity system. Here I am. Make use of my experience."

The UP president, who had long wanted to have an academic community free of violence, took me in. We were going to have a partnership: a person in authority wanting to reach out and a victim wanting to make sense of his troubles.

I came up with the program called Ambassadors for Peace. This is a movement of fraternity members who have seen the worst that can happen to frat men and want to heed the call for non-violence on campus. The movement is based on the simple idea that if people know each other, they would have no reason to hit each other with lead pipes.

I started with my brods in my own fraternity. I presented to them my case: We are the only fraternity that has had the terrible experience of having some of its members put behind bars for so many years. Remember how we wept with them and for them. Let's feel our parents' pain. Consider how our future was shattered into pieces. If we cannot find meaning and derive lessons from the incarceration of our brods, then what is the essence of our brotherhood?

My young brods, tired of petty things turning into rumbles, agreed with me in principle. They all wanted to study, to walk around the campus without any fear, to become the persons their parents dreamt they would be. But they had only one reservation: What if after a declaration of peace by our fraternity, some unruly men suddenly set upon us and tested our resolve? Should we take such an attack sitting down?

It was the question all the fraternities asked.

Peace is not an of a single individual. It takes two to tango. There must be a commonality of resolve among all fraternities. It was time to reach out.

With all the guts I could muster, I looked for a member of the fraternity, the mere mention of whose name gave me the shivers. It was the fraternity that my own frat had come to regard as "the enemy" through stories and myths handed down by members to neophytes all through the years. Yet, I could not understand why they were our enemies. Perhaps, they harbored the same intense hatred toward us. I had to face them and offer the hand of reconciliation. I had to confront my fears or I would forever be haunted by the past.

I met Ahmed. All the while he had been looking for me. He shared the sentiments that I kept unarticulated over the years. Why did we inherit enemies the moment we became members of our frats? Why should the tradition of our own group weigh heavier than the friendship we had nurtured for many years. Although the world painted to us was very different, we arrived at the same conclusion: It's only us who could be the victims of fraternity violence.

For me, it was an auspicious beginning for my new advocacy. In the other world of our rival frat, there was someone who treated me as a friend and not the monster that I was in their myths. I knew it was only a matter of time before I discovered who my other friends were.

I went around and visited all the frat *tambayan*, trying to show them the person that I was, not just the name they read in the papers. I met Hans, Win, Bert, Al, Stef, Jim, Dours, Bry, Drei, Mar, Edi and many others. They agreed that peace was an option.

There is a different kind of joy you feel when you find friends among people you once distrusted or considered as enemies. Among frat members, there is a brotherhood greater than the brotherhood of man: the brotherhood of the Divine, the brotherhood of Christ, of Allah or whatever you conceive God to be.

During my first semester as the UP president's assistant, peace on campus remained elusive. There were cases of violence caused by mere "*intriga*" or "*titigan*". There were frat men who were beaten up by men in hoods. We were always on the lookout for potential trouble, mediating conflicts as soon as possible.

Although there was a significant drop in the number of violent confrontations compared to previous semesters, there remained much to be done.

Today suspicions still hangs in the air. The pain over the loss of a dear brod is a strong wall that needs to be breached. The culture of violence developed through the decades threaten to overwhelm the new recruits to our mission of peace.

But I will move on. For when I was released from jail, I felt I owed my freedom to all my brods who remained in prison. When I was found innocent by the court, I could almost hear the prayers of parents who are afraid that their sons might suffer the same fate. When I became a free man, I knew God had a mission for me—a mission of peace.

It is a mission on which I will not turn my back.

Raymund E. Narag, 28, was among the 10 members of the Scintilla Juris Fraternity who were jailed for their alleged participation in the killing of Dennis Venturina, a member of the Sigma Rho Fraternity, in December 1994. He finished his bachelor's degree in public administration cum laude at the University of the Philippines in Diliman where he is now taking up his master's. He and four others were acquitted while five of their brods were sentenced to life imprisonment in March this year.

Desperately seeking justice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALBERT Koenig, a Swiss national residing in a town outside Dumaguete in Negros Oriental, was accused of rape by a 17-year-old woman last August. In September, the Department of Justice authorized the issuance of a hold-departure order against Koenig upon the request of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The DSWD said it had received reports that Koenig had booked a flight for Zurich.

The retired Swiss businessman, who claims to have been a trade representative of the city of Biel in Switzerland, has loudly and publicly proclaimed his innocence. Though it must be asked that if he is indeed innocent, why would he seek to worm his way out of the preliminary investigation of the rape case by flying home to Switzerland?

Meantime, both Nene Claire (not her real name), the complainant, and G-Wave or Gender Watch against Violence and Exploitation, the Dumaguete-based advocacy group that has been lending legal and moral support to Nene Claire, have come under attack from the local media and reportedly also from the armed group RPA-ABB.

Local papers have bannered Koenig's counter-affidavit in which he claims that what transpired between him and Nene Claire "wasn't rape but love." Koenig has also put out full-page ads denying the G-Wave's and the young woman's accusations, while carrying the affidavit of complaint—for alleged "coercion"—of a woman claiming to be a former girlfriend of Koenig's. The alleged ex-girlfriend says an official of G-Wave had been pressuring her to file a case against the Swiss, claiming she stood to earn money out of it.

* * *

KOENIG'S responses to the case have ranged from the legal to the extra-legal.

Aside from the ex-girl friend's suit, the parents of another young woman have sued a local DSWD official for allegedly forcing their daughter in the past to file "several" rape cases against Koenig, all of which were eventually dismissed.

Meantime, according to a police report, Nene Claire, who is currently under protective custody of the DSWD, and her parents are being put under "surveillance" by armed men (believed to be from the RPA-ABB). On the morning of Oct. 30, while Nene and her parents, accompanied by DSWD personnel, were in a meeting, a media person informed them that three armed men were spotted in the vicinity. When the police arrived, the armed men were nowhere to be found.

Later that morning, as Nene Claire and her parents were about to board a police vehicle, three men suddenly appeared. One of them approached the young woman's parents and ordered them to pull her away. The parents did so, but with the intervention of the DSWD personnel and police, Nene was finally able to board the vehicle. Nene sustained slight injuries on her hand but police say three more men surrounded her parents after their daughter left the scene.

* * *

G-WAVE is a member organization of the Coalition against Trafficking in Women—Asia Pacific, so while G-Wave carries on the campaign in support of Nene Claire in Dumaguete, the CATW is working to protect the young woman's interests at the national level.

Koenig has supposedly bragged about buying off the NBI for P300,000, and is reported to be preparing for a national media campaign. Talk in Dumaguete has it that Nene Claire is not the first young woman in the area to file a complaint of rape against Koenig, but the Swiss businessman has so far managed to elude the law by settling each case out of court.

It will thus be interesting to find out whether Koenig manages to slip out of this latest case by the usual route—buying his way out—or will finally be made to face the consequences of his actions after a fair and open trial. Let's see if Philippine justice is as accommodating to a poor young woman as it is to a retired Swiss businessman.

* * *

NOTICES: If you're in search of diversion tonight, you might want to check out either of these events, both of which have the added appeal of being for a good cause.

The country's "King of Comedy," Dolphy, leads a cast of top entertainers in an "evening of laughter and music" at 6 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental. The dinner-show is for the benefit of Museo Pambata ng Maynila which is marking its ninth year. With seven major programs specifically for disadvantaged children, Museo Pambata serves an estimated 300,000 children and 62 NGO workers and public school teachers, all of whom will directly benefit from the concert's proceeds.

Dolphy's daughter, now 11, was once a member of Museo Pambata's Science Club and it was after seeing how much his daughter enjoyed her experiences with the club that the actor-comedian commented: "We cannot dismiss how important it is to provide learning opportunities specially for our less fortunate children. They deserve a brighter future." His performance tonight is Dolphy's own way of helping poor children, and through them, ensuring a better future for this country.

Buklod ng Pag-Ibig, a charismatic community celebrating its 30th anniversary, marks the event with a concert featuring Vince Ambrosetti, a multi-awarded Catholic gospel singer from the United States. The concert, which also features Jeanne Young, Karylle and Middle C., will be held at the Araneta Coliseum and starts at 6 p.m. Organizers say tonight's concert will also "give hurting families the opportunity to witness the unwavering, healing love of Christ."

Why not Joe Joya?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE DESIGNATED powers are out to select a National Artist for the Visual Arts once more to add to the list of Amorsolo, Manansala, Legaspi, Ocampo, Luz, et al. Not being "in," I have no idea why Joe Joya has been by-passed all these years since most of his peers and then some have been awarded the title. And some in their lifetimes too—something which, rumor has it, was deliberately withheld from our 1964 Venice Biennial representative.

Some have said it's because there's this art critic who hates his guts (some things apparently go beyond the grave), a feud dating back to college days. This sounds ridiculous. I mean, surely only a half-wit will base an award on whether he likes the person rather than an appreciation for his body of work. I doubt very much that Picasso or Ernest Hemingway were extraordinary, charming persons. Hemingway, I understand, was a bore, what with all his macho posturing. But so what? The National Artist award is not a popularity contest—at least not the way I understand it.

Others say it's because Dean Joya did some commercial work. And Amorsolo did not? Or that he campaigned for it. Perhaps he should have hired a PR firm the way politicians do to market him: Portrait of the Filipino as National Artist. Ridiculous. We have composers of elevator music as National Artists, we have others the general public never heard of and even one for whom a special award had to be created just so he could have the title. The lengths we go to in order to dupe ourselves.

Joya, aside from his work as an artist, was dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines as well as a teacher. Some of his drawings were done for the guidance of his students. As president of the Art Association of the Philippines, he pioneered in bringing the association's annual show to Cebu City, marking the first such exhibition outside Manila. He introduced workshops in depressed areas like Sapang Palay and Tondo, bringing consciousness and appreciation of art to the grassroots level. Who knows what potentials may have been realized through these efforts? The workshops also inspired the formation of art associations in Bacolod, Cebu and Leyte.

Joya was the recipient of numerous awards, his worth as an artist recognized by the Australians where he was artist-guest in 1977 and by the British in 1964. He was listed in the Who's Who in Art and Antiques, and his paintings are owned by museums in Japan, in the United States and certainly form part of all major collections in this country. Arturo Luz, a National Artist himself, believes Jose Joya should have received the award way before a number of others. Ben-Cab is of the same opinion as well as Ramon Orlina. It's not as though I'm this voice crying in the wilderness even if it feels that way sometimes when it comes to intangibles.

Joya was a prolific painter of people, landscapes, houses, churches, rivers and seas. He was an abstract artist, adept at linear drawing where his mastery of line and form is displayed. But as Juvenal Sanso has pointed out, the good and great painters as a rule are grounded in the discipline of classical art. You should be able to draw a human figure in the classic tradition before you deconstruct it. Joya was classical when he wanted to be. He graduated magna cum laude in Fine Arts and was the recipient of various scholarships and grants to Spain and to the United States.

Joya, as you know, is the Spanish word for jewel. It isn't surprising, given what has been taking place in our country these past decades, that we have failed to honor this particular jewel. We have destroyed so many of our treasures anyway and failed to recognize pearls of great value. Think of the reclamation and Manila Bay, stinking of flotsam and jetsam, our Pasig, our forests, even Tagaytay. And of course remember the Jai-Alai Building and all those lovely structures we have demolished. That we don't bother to honor Jose Joya as one of our National Artists shouldn't surprise us anymore, but there are some things that should be rectified even if the person cannot benefit from the honor.

Sill on the subject of our shortcomings, let me continue by noting that we are a people who are very fond of awards and trophies and sundry metal symbols. We have all kinds of "Miss This" and "Miss That." There are awards for having been born pretty no matter how vacuous the intellect and trophies for having the means to be fashionable. I don't see any harm in that because we'd be in deeper trouble without the jobs in lifestyle sections, in fashion magazines and couture shops. There's no harm in that as long as you realize there's life beyond it.

Aside from Joe Joya, there are three other artists whom we have failed to acknowledge both for their contribution to Filipino visual arts and their influence on other artists. These are Fernando Zobel, Juvenal Sanso and Anita Magsaysay Ho. Now the problem with these three it seems is that they are not Filipino citizens. (What happened to our much vaunted *utang na loob*?) Fine, so maybe they don't have to be considered National Artists but surely there should be some recognition of their contribution. Hopefully, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines will wake up one of these days.

Why citizens turn into rebels

I WOULD like to comment on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' statement that "the policy of accommodation was open to those who would abandon the 33 years old armed struggle of the communist New Peoples Army." (PDI,11/3/02)

Reyes said it's time for the rebels to seriously reconsider their position and drop and renounce armed struggle and their use of terror and violence.

May I remind the former general that people who joined the armed struggle are not terrorists. The rebel is the exact opposite of a criminal, for a crime is an act of desperation while rebellion is an act of self-sacrifice. A crime is an act that deprives others in order to give to one's self, while rebellion is an act that deprives one's self in order to give to others.

People turn into rebels not because they want to kill or to be killed. They become rebels because they see that more and more poor civilians are suffering from injustice and are eating one meal a day while the rich bureaucrats plunder our nation's wealth. Give them a genuine government of the people, by the people and for the people and rebellion will disappear.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

A government that is responsible for hundreds of thousands of starving people and an equal number going into prostitution deserves to be overthrown.

—Carmelo Adan Camarao, 30-Z-10 Maningning St., Barangay Malaya, Quezon City

Why banks were accredited to accept foreign retirees' funds

LOOKING back to the first decade of the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) where I acted as trustee and member of the board in behalf of the chair of the Monetary Board, it was a firm policy of the PRA at that time to open the accreditation of banks under set standards where foreign retirees (or PRA in their behalf) may place their dollar or peso deposit accounts. The policy was strongly recommended by the Central Bank in order to prevent or deter any anomaly or distortive mechanism that might occur if accreditation was limited to only one or very few banks. In other words, the rationale for opening up accreditation to all qualified banks was deemed absolutely necessary in view of the direct experience of the Central Bank in the accreditation of dealers for the regular and special auctions of all government securities (not only in Treasury Bills) which, in anticipation of a change of government from martial law, suddenly exploded in volume and spread (from P100 million to P1 trillion annually).

It was clear at that time that dealership accreditation had to be open to as many institutions as was legally possible in order to deter "cartelized" bids or any attempt to design in any form of "managed" escalation of rates above market particularly when the "new democracy" was aligning its fiscal policy actions with the Central Bank's open-market operations for modulating money supply in tandem with restoring public confidence in government.

It is now evident that since its inception, the deposits of foreign retirees have somehow grown in volume although at a more moderate pace compared to government securities. Accordingly, the policy readoption of open accreditation of depository banks for the PRA (now PRLA), Prama and the foreign retirees has become imperative at this time when alleged bickering in the sharing of fees, the detention of a foreign retiree-lawyer and the tactical takeover of a distressed thrift bank under unclear circumstances have been in the limelight.

What is now of extreme urgency is to prevent the convalescing bank from relapsing into a worse financial condition, which it does not deserve.

—E. EALDAMA JR., former PRA Trustee and BSP director for Government Securities, 20 St. Peter Rd., San Jose Village, Alabang

Not a toll, just a road-maintenance fee

IN RESPONSE to the article and letter that appeared in your paper on Nov. 11 and 12, respectively, we deny the allegation that the Multinational Village Homeowners Association Inc. (MVHAI) is extorting money from motorists passing through Kaingin Road which they claim to be a public road.

Joe Marquez of Barangay Sto. Niño, in defense of Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, may be correct in saying that Kaingin was built as an alternative route to the main road built by the developer, Mike Velarde. But what he doesn't know is that the MVHAI management does not collect any toll fee for the use of Kaingin Road but collects maintenance fees for the use of the MVHAI access road that is maintained, repaired, cleaned and lighted and secured by the MVHAI management.

With regard to the article of Christian V. Esguerra, he only featured what Zialcita said without getting our side. If there are charges to be filed, it's the Multinational Village that should do so against Zialcita and his aides, for toppling down the temporary guardhouse of the MVHAI without any provocation, clear abuse of authority.

Villagers from places like Merville, Moonwalk and neighboring areas use Kaingin Road and the MVHAI access road for convenience to go to and from their respective destinations although they have their own entry and exit points through the South Super Highway. Convenience has a price, especially if the road you are using is privately owned. In order to keep the access road well-maintained and secure, the MVHAI sells vehicle stickers to motorists passing through the MVHAI access road as a source of funds for the management program intended for the access road. Others, being the tightwads that they are, choose to ignore our policy and conveniently claim that the road is for public use, which leads to arguments between them and the village security people.

The management of MVHAI is willing to accommodate all motorists if the local government of Parañaque can follow the practice of Las Piñas which made a well-maintained friendship lane interconnecting various villages within its jurisdiction.

—ARNEL GACUTAN, chair, security and transportation committee, Multinational Village Homeowners Association Inc., Nazareth cor. Judea Street, Multinational Village, Parañaque City

Questions on Luna purchase

WHY did the GSIS spend millions on one painting when contemporary Filipino art is dying? Can you imagine what a tremendous collection of national art GSIS would have amassed if it had spent half that amount on contemporary Philippine paintings, like the Central Bank did under Jimmy Laya?

The prestigious Luz Gallery is closing down after more than 40 years of pioneering work, promoting Philippine painting. Arturo Luz, the owner, has done more for Philippine art than Winston Garcia could ever do, had he several lifetimes as an "art patron."

Poor Luna, every smart operator is making more money from his paintings than he ever did during his entire lifetime! And the number of doubtful transactions continue—from Far East Bank's donation *(kuno)* of Lunas to the National Museum, in exchange for a tax break to Teyet Pascual's "Luna sketches" and now to Winston Garcia's purchase of "Parisian Life" for P50.6 million. How did the price get to be so much higher than the P14 million estimate the auctioneers themselves started with?

Who were the other bidders? Let's face it, this particular Luna painting's interest is primarily historical, not artistic. For that reason, only a Filipino would pay top price for it, to keep it in the country.

I understand Garcia was bidding against someone who was on the telephone. Are we sure there was another genuine Filipino buyer, seeing how badly the economy is doing?

Neither Christie's nor its rival Sotheby's has been above price fixing. In 2000, Sotheby's Diana Brooks, former president and chief executive of Sotheby's International, admitted to having conspired with a Christie's official before an American court. Sometime later, Alfred Taubman, chair of Sotheby's Holdings, and Anthony J. Tenant, chair of Christie' s International, were found guilty of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act.

I would say the GSIS management owes government employees a better explanation than the dismissive note that not a single centavo of their money went into the purchase of the Luna. Is Garcia saying that the profits from GSIS ventures go to other pockets than to the GSIS fund that employees are supposed to own? If he is saying this, there is something even more wrong about GSIS management than its foolish venture into art buying—a business it obviously knows nothing about!

—MALANG, West Avenue, Quezon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Hu takes China's helm; Jiang is power in shadows

BEIJING—China's Hu Jintao took the helm of the world's most populous nation on Friday to steer its booming economy and maintain tight Communist Party control with predecessor Jiang Zemin pulling strings from retirement.

Hu, 59, was formally appointed Communist Party chief and head of the "fourth generation" of leaders—following Chairman Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang—after months of secretive jockeying for power among the retiring old guard.

The new lineup emerged from behind a carved wooden screen in the Soviet-style Great Hall of the People in the final act of the first succession in Communist China untainted by purges, plots or bloodshed.

The televised ceremony was the first many ordinary Chinese learned of the most sweeping shakeup since Jiang took power in 1989 after a bloody crackdown on student protests on Tiananmen Square.

The new Politburo Standing Committee, expanded from seven to nine members, was stacked with six Jiang allies, guaranteeing him a say in decision making as China grapples with rising unemployment and emerges as a world power.

"The more people you have, the less power each individual has," said one Chinese political scientist, who declined to be identified. "And the more allies Jiang has, the more he can influence decision-making after retirement.

Jiang also kept his post as head of the Central Military Commission (CMC), which commands the world's biggest armed forces, as Deng did for two years after leaving the Standing Committee in 1987.

Vice Premier Wu Bangguo, 61, emerged second and is expected to take over the parliament in March next year, when the old guard leaders step down from their government posts.

Vice Premier Wen Jiabao, backed by Premier Zhu Rongji, was third in line and could take over the reins of Asia's fastest growing economy next year.

Parliament chief Li Peng's protege, internal security tsar Luo Gan, 67, was the last in the lineup. *Reuters*

CHINA'S new Party Chief Hu Jintao addresses the media after China unveiled new members of the all powerful standing Committee of the elite Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Nov. 15. REUTERS

Advt.

US forms probe panel on 9/11 terror attacks

WASHINGTON—The White House and congressional leaders agreed on Thursday to create an independent, bipartisan panel to conduct a sweeping probe into the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, ending more than a year of dispute.

The 10-member commission would have 18 months to examine why the assaults on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon outside Washington and in Pennsylvania were able to occur.

The administration had long opposed such a commission, arguing that a congressional investigation was better equipped to preserve national security secrets. Even after it accepted the idea in September, it argued with lawmakers over its composition.

But families of the victims of the attacks led a public campaign for its creation, putting pressure on US President George W. Bush and congressional leaders.

"We have reached an agreement," said White House spokesperson Scott McClellan. "We believe we are close to passing a strong bipartisan commission that will look at a broad range of issues."

Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, who had worked to set up the commission, said in a statement: "This is a decisive victory for the families of Sept. 11th victims and the nation as a whole."

"Finally we will get a clear picture of what government agencies failed, how they failed and why," he added.

Congressional aides said the US House of Representatives was expected to take up legislation to create the commission later on Thursday and the Senate was likely to quickly follow suit, perhaps on Friday. *Reuters*

Non-consumated marriages rampant in ignorant Asia

SINGAPORE—Sex education in Asia is hobbled by social, religious, and cultural barriers, with even university-educated couples not consummating their marriages because they don't know how, experts say.

There are also couples who believe a woman can become pregnant from mere kissing and cuddling, the experts attending an international congress on sexuality told a news briefing here Thursday.

The lack of sex understanding in Asia runs so deep, they want a regional strategy to address the problems.

"In the Asian context, there are more myths and misconceptions surrounding sexuality, which can contribute to dysfunction and family disharmony," said P. Ganesan Adaikan, president-elect of the International Society for Sexual and Impotence Research.

"In Asia, we have been covering these issues of sexuality under the carpet . . . Sexuality is a prelude to procreation, there is nothing dirty about that."

Adaikan describes the non-consumation of marriage as a "rampant" problem in Asia due to a variety of reasons, including impotence.

Another reason highlighted by therapists is ignorance on how to perform sexual intercourse even among young, married couples with a university education.

Chong Yap Seng, a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist at the National University of Singapore, said that nine percent of people who see doctors in Singapore about sex problems complain about non-consummation of marriage. *AFP*

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16 October 2002 - Economy Class round-trip tickets for two (2) to Manila/Shanghai

30 October 2002 - Swingaround Bangkok holiday package for two (2).

16 November 2002 - Swingaround Sydney holiday package for two (2).

30 November 2002 - Grand draw

Swingaround San Francisco holiday package for two (2).

See poster for more details.

Promo period: September 12 to November 29, 2002

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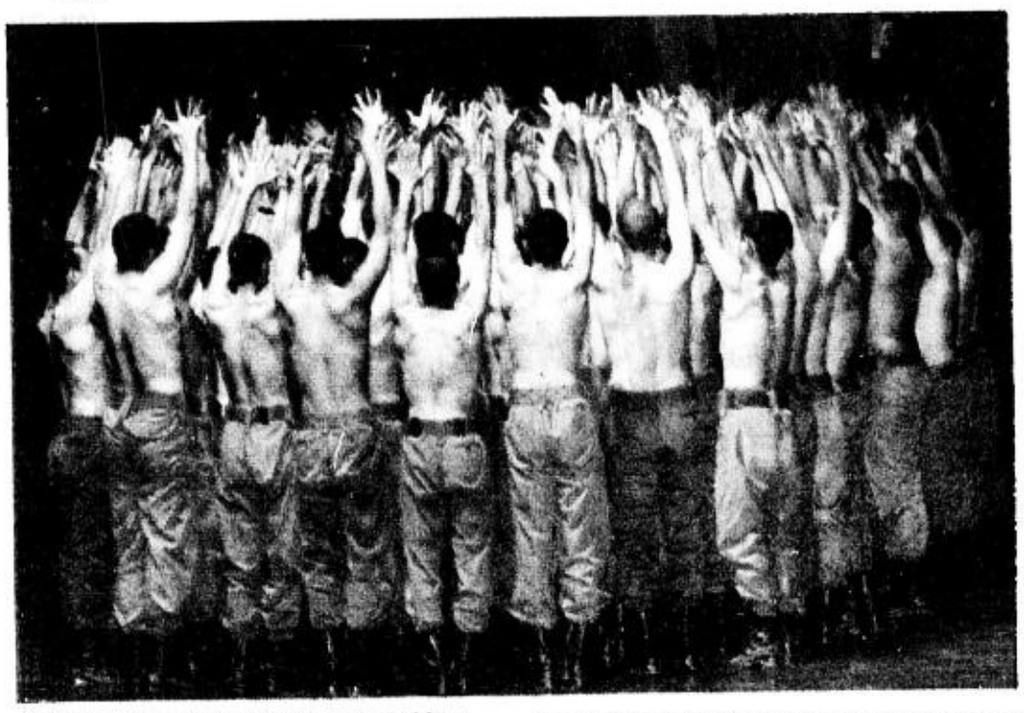
Pope tells Christians to reject war on Iraq



IRAQI soldiers during celebrations held to mark the founding of Baghdad City, at the National Theater in Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 14. AP

ROME—Pope John Paul II on Thursday deplored the "new and fearful dimension" of international terrorism and made a veiled appeal to Christian countries to turn away from war against Iraq.

In the first-ever address by a pontiff to the Italian parliament, the 82-year-old head of the Roman Catholic church was greeted with warm applause as he walked with a cane into the Chamber of Deputies where some 800 people including members of both houses of parliament awaited him.

Alluding to a possible US-led war against Iraq, the pope warned Italy and other countries "historically rooted in the Christian faith" to not allow themselves "to be imprisoned by a logic of conflict incapable of offering real solutions."

"Tragically our hopes for peace are brutally contradicted by the flaring up of chronic conflicts, beginning with the one which has caused so much bloodshed in the Holy Land," the pontiff said.

Turning to terrorism, John Paul said the violence had "taken on a new and fearful dimension, involving in a completely distorted way the great religions."

"The world's religions are challenged to show all their rich potential for peace by directing, and, as it were 'converting' towards mutual understanding, the cultures and civilizations which draw inspiration from them," he said.

Hundreds of Italians and foreign tourists cheered him with cries of "Long live the pope!" on his arrival and when he later left the parliament buildings.

Many were disappointed that not more Romans were around to see the parliamentary visit.

"People didn't understand the importance of the occasion," said one.

The pope's speech was shown on three large open air television screens on the Parliament Square.

The pope touched on social issues, including Italy's unemployment and declining birth-rate.

On the population decline and ageing population, he appealed indirectly to Italians to have more children, saying: "Raw statistical evidence obliges us to take account of the human, social and economic problems which this crisis will inevitably impose on Italy in the decades to come," he said: "Above all, it encourages—indeed, I would dare to say, forces—citizens to make a broad and responsible commitment to favor a clear-cut reversal of this tendency."

There was ample room for political initiatives which "by upholding recognition of the rights of the family as the natural society founded upon marriage, according to the expression of the Constitution of the Italian Republic, can make the task of having children and bringing them up less burdensome both socially and economically," he urged. *AFP*

US to Iraq: Don't play games with inspectors

WASHINGTON—The United States is "prepared and concerned" about possible Iraq-sponsored terrorist attacks on the United States if President George W. Bush orders a war to disarm Saddam Hussein, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

"There is a danger that Saddam Hussein would do things he's done previously. He has in the past used chemical weapons," Rumsfeld said on a call-in show on Infinity Broadcasting and National Public Radio stations.

"I have no doubt that if he's able, he would like to see that terrorist attacks occur in the event that military action was taken."

Rumsfeld said if the United States used military force to oust Saddam, there would be a military command in Iraq while authorities tried to track down all of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction—a task Rumsfeld earlier said could take many months. Then some sort of interim government of Iraqis should take control, Rumsfeld said.

Iraq probably would not be able to fight for very long after a US-led invasion, Rumsfeld said, noting that ground combat in the 1991 Persian Gulf War lasted just 100 hours.

"I can't say if the use of force would last five days or five weeks or five months, but it certainly isn't going to last any longer than that," Rumsfeld said. "It won't be a World War III."

He rejected Saddam's claims that Iraq has no chemical, biological or nuclear weapons programs.

"We know that Saddam Hussein has chemical and biological weapons, and we know he has an active program for development of nuclear weapons," Rumsfeld said.

Unfettered access

Iraq on Wednesday accepted a tough new UN Security Council resolution demanding it disarm and allow inspectors unfettered access anywhere in Iraq. But Iraq's acceptance letter was filled with anti-American invective and repeatedly claimed Saddam's government did not have any banned weapons or programs to make them.

"I've never tried to predict what (Saddam) might do, but one thing I know he better not do, and that is play games," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

Added Secretary of State Colin Powell, during a trip to Canada: "I think what we're interested in seeing is a new spirit of cooperation, if there's going to be one, from Iraq."

Bush called Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar on Thursday and the two leaders "expressed full solidarity in demanding that the Iraqi regime disarm," McClellan said.

The president has said repeatedly that if Iraq does not disarm, the United States would lead "a coalition of the willing" to disarm Iraq by force.

The weapons inspectors are to resume their search for illegal caches by Dec. 23 and are to report to the Security Council 60 days after they start looking. Iraq has until Dec. 8 to give a full accounting of all its banned weapons programs as well as programs to develop long-range missiles and remote-controlled aircraft to deliver them.

At any point, inspectors are to report to the Security Council in the event of failure by Iraq to comply with its obligations combined with any false statements or omissions in the list.

Administration officials have said the resolution also prohibits Iraq from firing on US and British planes patrolling no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq. The United States set up the zones after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, saying they were in support of UN resolutions demanding that Saddam not attack Kurds in the north and Shiite Muslims in the south.

But US officials have been deliberately vague about whether they would view any Iraqi firings as a breach of the latest UN resolution and therefore an automatic trigger for war.

Powell said Iraq's reactions to enforcement of no-fly zones would be looked at "with all seriousness if they continue to do that" and that Iraq must understand the threat of military action is real. *AP*

Allies back US decision to suspend critical oil deliveries to N. Korea

NEW YORK—Demanding the speedy elimination of North Korea's nuclear program, key allies backed the US decision to suspend future oil deliveries to North Korea as punishment for its secret program to develop a uranium-based bomb.

A joint statement on Thursday by South Korea, Japan, the European Union and the United States said future shipments will depend on North Korea's "concrete and credible actions" to completely dismantle its highly enriched uranium program. This must be done "in a visible and verifiable manner," it said.

The three allies gave their support to the suspension 24 hours after US President George W. Bush made a decision to suspend oil shipments, accusing North Korea of violating a 1994 agreement with the United States in which it pledged to become a nuclear-free state.

Their decision was announced after a daylong meeting of the four parties, who are members of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, known as KEDO, which operate the eight-year-old oil assistance program.

The allies coupled the suspension with a condemnation of North Korea for violating the 1994 agreement and its treaty obligations to remain nuclear-free. They also warned that North Korea's future relations with South Korea, Japan, the European Union and the United States "hinge on the complete and permanent elimination of its nuclear weapons program."

North Korea's nuclear program, the allies said, "threatens regional and international security and undermines" the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Bush decided to suspend the oil shipments following North Korea's acknowledgment of its uranium bomb program on Oct. 4 during a meeting with US officials in Pyongyang. His only concession was to agree to allow a vessel already en route to North Korea to deliver a final oil shipment.

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At the White House, senior administration officials celebrated their allies' agreement to "condemn" the North Koreans outright and unequivocally demand immediate elimination—"not steps to begin elimination," noted one of the officials—of Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, also underscored the KEDO member countries' threat to cancel other interaction beyond the oil program, including economic aid and construction projects.

The isolated communist nation is destitute and depends heavily on the US oil shipments. The United States, South Korea, the European Union and Japan are hoping the prospect of a cold winter for millions of North Koreans will pressure Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

"We strongly ask North Korea to take our message seriously and scrap its plan to develop nuclear arms immediately," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told a press conference Friday. *AP*

BANISHING EVIL SPIRITS AFP
Young Balinese dancers wait to perform in a mass purification ceremony at the bomb site in front of the Sari Club in Kuta, Bali, Indonesia, Nov. 15.

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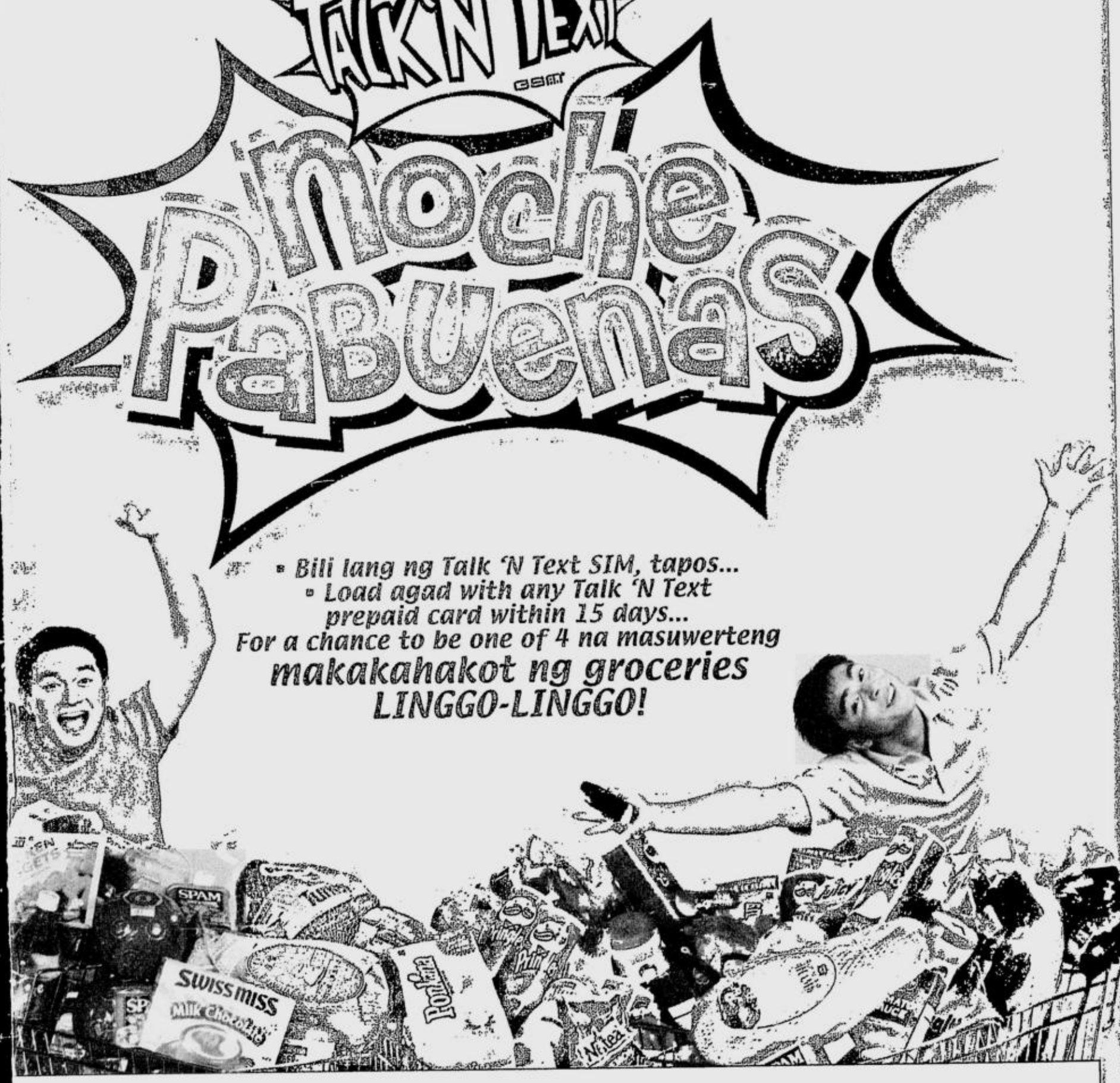

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"We are talking about grams of weapons-grade materials, and kilograms of low-grade uranium used as fuel by nuclear power plants," the official said, according to Russian news agencies.

He said the losses were most frequently recorded at secretive industrial plants like Electroplate, near Moscow, and the Novosibirsk chemical plant.

Both of these sites are believed to be used for both civilian and military purposes.

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The investment is needed "to modernize technical defense equipment, as well as for preparing and arming the security services at nuclear sites."

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Kasi looked sad as he entered the death chamber, witnesses said.

Kasi's spiritual adviser Dr. Miah Muhammed Saeed, president of the Islamic Center in northern Virginia, accompanied him into the death chamber. The two men appeared to be praying quietly but continuously until Kasi's death.

His last words were, "There is no God but Allah," said Traylor.

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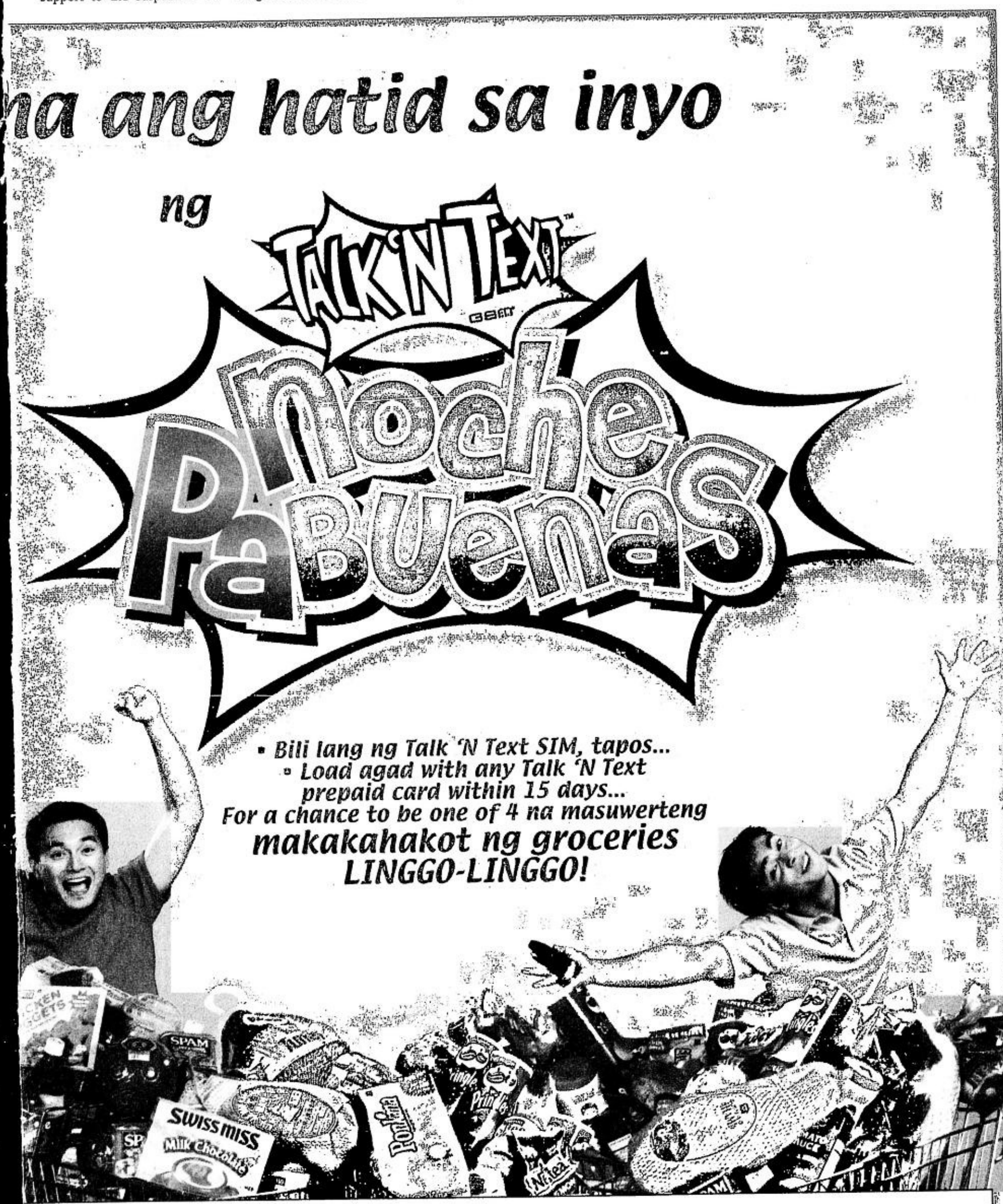

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Suspects in 124-kg shabu granted bail

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—A judge here last week allowed three policemen and two others caught transporting 124 kilograms of shabu in 2000 to post bail after the continued failure of government agents to testify in the case.

Judge Alejandrino Cabebe of the regional trial court here allowed Chief Insp. Rey Arcangel, SPO4 Victorio Malabed, and SPO3 William Villanueva, all of the maritime intelligence unit of the Philippine National Police's Maritime Group, to post a P70,000-bail bond each.

Two other accused, Pelagio and Jocelyn Manuel, were granted P70,000 and P20,000-bail, respectively.

Agents of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force caught the suspects trying to transport the illegal substance from Burgos, Ilocos Norte, to Metro Manila on April 1, 2000.

The suspects were initially detained in Camp Crame. They had since been transferred and imprisoned at the Ilocos Norte provincial jail from the time the case was filed in court.

The PAOCTF agents placed the suspects under surveillance from the time they received the illegal drugs from a Chinese vessel off the coast of Burgos town until they transported the shipment to Metro Manila.

Authorities failed to block the Chinese vessel but two more suspects, Jimmy Lim and Sonny Ng, were arrested on the night of April 1, 2000 in a restaurant in Quezon City.

Lim and Ng were supposed to meet Malabed at the restaurant had the shipment arrived in Metro Manila.

But more than two years since the case was filed in court, none of the PAOCTF agents or government prosecutors from the Department of Justice have appeared in court to testify.

"The grant of bail was based on the failure of state prosecutors to appear for two or more times (before the court). The court considers this not only as a basis for a grant of bail but probably to consider the dismissal of the case," Cabebe told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

He said he allowed the respondents to post bail on Nov. 5. The suspects, however, have been placed on a hold departure list based on Cabebe's order issued on Nov. 12.

"The court was only glad that the (defense lawyer) only demanded for admission of the accused to bail. The court would have been placed in a more difficult situation should (the lawyer) demanded for an outright dismissal because of this delay in the presentation of evidence," Cabebe said.

He said PAOCTF agents never appeared in court despite notices sent to them to testify against the suspects.

Task force members Supt. Cesar Mancao, Insp. Isagani Genabe, Supt. Dennis Agustin, Insp. Vicente Amado, SPO3 Alfred Clemente and SPO1 Jose Danilo Condez, had all been notified to appear in court during the two-year duration of the case, to no avail, court records showed.

"The accused should not be placed in jeopardy by remaining in jail when the prosecution had not been presenting their evidence. This is a non-bailable offense. But what the court considers is a violation of the right of the accused to be presumed innocent. And they have been in jail for more than two years," Cabebe said. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

1 killed in explosion at treasure hunt site

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Searching for the fabled Yamashita treasure proved to be deadly for 10 treasure hunters on Mactan Island.

Instead of finding treasure, they found a bomb.

The bomb exploded during an excavation late Thursday, killing a miner and wounding another.

Authorities identified the fatality as Valeriano Gentapa, 52, of Barangay Uling, Naga, Cebu. Slightly injured was Elberto Aniana, 36, of Barangay Labogon, Mandaue City.

The other treasure hunters, coming from various towns in Cebu, survived.

Cordova police held Aniana and two of the survivors, Juan Apas and Ronnie Camay, for investigation.

Aniana said they started digging three months ago after they got a "tip" that treasure was buried there.

He said the pit, about four feet in radius, was already about eight feet deep when the bomb was found. It immediately exploded, killing Gentapa instantly.

PO3 Benedicto Sumagang of the Cordova police said they did not believe that a bomb caused the explosion.

He said it was possible that the treasure hunters were careless in handling blasting materials during the excavation.

Sumagang said no bomb fragment was found in the blast site.

Day-as Barangay Captain Macario Tajanlangit confirmed the presence of the treasure hunters in his village.

Aniana said they did not inform authorities of the excavation but had a permit from the landowner, a certain Dalmacio.

Cordillera docs oppose medical malpractice bill

BAGUIO CITY—Doctors assigned to the Cordillera's remote villages joined the opposition to the medical malpractice bill, saying the insurance premiums that the bill imposes on doctors would result in higher fees that poor patients would have to bear.

Members of the Philippine Medical Association's Baguio-Benguet chapter and the Community Health, Education Services and Training in Cordillera Region (Chestcore) vowed to intensify the campaign against House Bill 4995.

Dr. Ana Marie Leung, Chestcore executive director, said the bill, which projects itself as the best system of policing doctors and health workers, will only promote the practice of "defensive medicine."

Leung said penalties imposed by the bill would make doctors more conscious of lawsuits instead of practicing rational medicine that is based on sound clinical judgment.

A statement of the Alliance of Health Professionals Organizations (Ahpo) said the bill would require a doctor to pay a P75,000-medical malpractice insurance before he or she can practice medicine.

"It will also deliver a deathblow to outreach and medical missions," Ahpo said.

Leung said: "Instead of benefiting from this bill, the patients will suffer (because of increased professional fees of doctors)."

Dr. Charles Ong, a member of the PMA Baguio-Benguet chapter, said the Cordillera, whose provinces are among the poorest in the country, will likely suffer from the shortage of doctors once the bill is approved as many may choose to practice abroad.

"In Baguio and Benguet, we have 800 doctors and this number is already sufficient. But how about the (region's remote) villages which are short of health workers?" Ong asked.

Dr. Joseph Carabeo, head of the Ahpo education committee, said doctors in the country have convinced some congressmen and senators to oppose the bill.

He said doctors in the provinces would mount protest caravans.

Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez sponsored the bill. In an earlier interview, Rodriguez said the bill was not anti-doctor. "It was filed and re-filed due to the insistence of victims of gross negligence by a minor portion of the medical profession. But let me clarify that on the whole, the medical malpractice bill is not anti-doctor," he said. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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RP's Catholic image tainted, says top bishop

By Lino K. Parone Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Philippines, it seemed, has already lost the glitter of its being the predominantly Catholic country in Asia, a high-ranking Church official said Thursday.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president, said an Indonesian bishop told him that the country's ills have so far stained its image of being the only Catholic country in Asia.

"I wish we could point to you as a model Christian country in Asia, a model of Christianity, but we can't," Quevedo quoted the Indonesian Catholic Bishop as saying.

"How can we say, 'Christianity is this, look at the Philippines.' Of course we are corrupt, but you are not far from us in corruption. Of course we are poor, but you are also not far from us in poverty," Quevedo yesterday told delegates to the 1st National Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) Assembly at the Holy Family Retreat House in Cebu City.

The archbishop said the Filipinos' credibility had been so tarnished that Catholics in the country woul not be effective in their mission to evangelize and showcase their faith.

"I felt ashamed," Quevedo said, referring to the Indonesian bishop's comment. "All I could say to him was let us pray," he said.

Quevedo said he heard another priest calling the current crop of Catholics as "saints on Sundays, but devils during the rest of the week."

Another blow to the status long enjoyed by the country since 1561 when Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan set foot on Limasawa Island is that it is no longer considered Asia's most predominantly Catholic country. Thanks to Portugal, the honor now belongs to the United Nation's newest member—East Timor.

"We may have the most number of Catholics in Asia, but East Timor, even with just about 800,000 population, is 95 percent Catholic," Quevedo said.

The Philippines' Catholics comprise about 86 percent of the population. The rest are members of Protestant sects, Iglesia ni Kristo, Muslims and other Christian groups.

ROUNDUP

Mayor's bribe try

MATI, Davao Oriental—The leader of the casual employees of this town's government accused Mayor Francisco Rabat of bribery. Joanna Mabini claimed that Rabat had offered P30,000 for her to stop leading the rallies of some 200 former casual employees. Mabini said the bribery attempt took place inside Rabat's hacienda in Barangay Dahican, but she said she turned down the offer. The employees have been protesting Rabat's continued refusal to pay them P1.9 million in unpaid wages. On Wednesday, they filed graft charges against the executive. The INQUIRER tried but failed to get Rabat's side.
Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Informer slain

DAVAO CITY—Police here expressed suspicions that Leonardo Pitao, or Commander Parago, a ranking leader of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao, was behind the fatal shooting of a tipster, who provided information for his arrest in 1999. Two motorcycle-riding men gunned down Roque Alcayde, 43, and a former NPA rebel and Pitao's neighbor in Bago Gallera in Talomo District, at around 10 p.m. on Monday. Alcayde was inside a billiard hall when the suspects attacked and shot him in the head. He died on the spot. Police found spent .45 cal. bullets. Authorities said Pitao was apparently angry at Alcayde for providing information that led to his arrest. Pitao was then being sought in connection with the abduction of Army Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo and Capt. Eduardo Montealto on Feb. 17, 1999.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Grenade blast in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Unidentified suspects lobbed a grenade at a compound on Ballmbing Street here where an official of the Bureau of Internal Revenue has been staying. No one was hurt but the explosion woke up and alarmed the neighbors of Revenue District Officer Eduardo Obero. Policemen who rushed to the compound recovered the safety lever, several pieces of shrapnel, safety pin and gunpowder from the grenade. Obero's neighhors, who went out of their houses to check on the explosion, reportedly saw two unidentified motorcycle-riding men wearing black shirts fleeing from the area. Authorities said they were still trying to figure out the motive and the identities of the suspects. Obero declined to comment.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Firearms seized

VIGAN CITY—Police seized high-powered firearms from the house of a village official in this city on Tuesday. Reports said the supposed owner of the firearms, Simeon Anicas Jr., chair of Barangay Nagsangalan here, accompanied policemen to his house but disappeared when the team from the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group began the search. Seized from Anicas' house were two Armalite rifles, an AK-47 rifle and bullets. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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ID system for villages to be funded by LGUs

DAGUPAN CITY—Local governments will have to finance the municipal ID system proposed by the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, officials said.

LMP president Mayor Ramon Guico of Binalonan, Pangasinan said the municipal ID system is part of the intelligence network being created by the LMP to fight terrorism and crime in the communities.

Guico said he expected the proposal to be approved by the mayors during the three-day LMP convention at the Manila Hotel that started Tuesday.

He said the municipal mayors would also discuss the proposal to arm barangay *tanods* (village watchmen) and would ask Congress to give the mayors authority over the police.

The ID system and the computer network have been approved in principle by the LMP national directorate, he said.

Guico said the network would cost about P40 million, according to initial calculations by the LMP.

He said the details of the project's funding scheme and its implementation will be discussed during the LMP general assembly.

Guico said he expected no protest on the ID system. He said the project is "not a big deal" since the data required from residents are the usual information given for other ID cards such as community tax certificates and company IDs.

"Why should they complain if the same information are taken for a municipal ID system? Besides, this will be a big help for the local government in the proper identification and protection of the citizens in the light of the campaign against terrorism and criminality," Guico added.

He said the mayors would coordinate with agencies like the Land Transportation Office and the National Bureau of Investigation for the implementation of the project.

The municipal ID system will be piloted in several towns that the LMP will identify later.

Guico said he was offering his hometown as a pilot area for the project.

The war on terrorism has put the Philippines in the world map.

In February, next year, some 300 American experts are expected to arrive in the country to train Filipino soldiers in anti-terrorism tactics.

"We are expecting 300 US trainors to arrive here, but they will come and go," said Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Southcom chief.

But Abaya said the "sets of trainings" are no longer covered by the Balikatan Exercise 02-1.

"It has ended and this is another program addressing the training needs of our troops," he said.

Abaya said based on the training program, two companies of the Scout Rangers will be trained as Light Reaction Co. (LRC).

The program also includes training of four companies of the Light Infantry Battalion in Mindanao, night flying capability for helicopter pilots and intelligence operation. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

This RM awardee was a houseboy

By Connie E. Fernandez
Cebu City

HE was about six years old when he started selling melted candles that he collected from a nearby cemetery so he could help his mother buy food.

When he was in first year high school, his teachers and classmates would laugh at him because he was the only one who wore shorts. His parents could not afford to buy him a pair of pants.

Arden Siarot refused to wallow in poverty. But his dream was modest—to be able to eat three times a day "with snacks."

Thirty years later, Arden, at 36, achieved more than what he ever dreamed.

He now manufactures and exports high-end quality furniture and accessory products catering to the United States, European, Australian, Saudi Arabian and African markets.

He is also this year's recipient of the President Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Filipino Worker under the self-employed category.

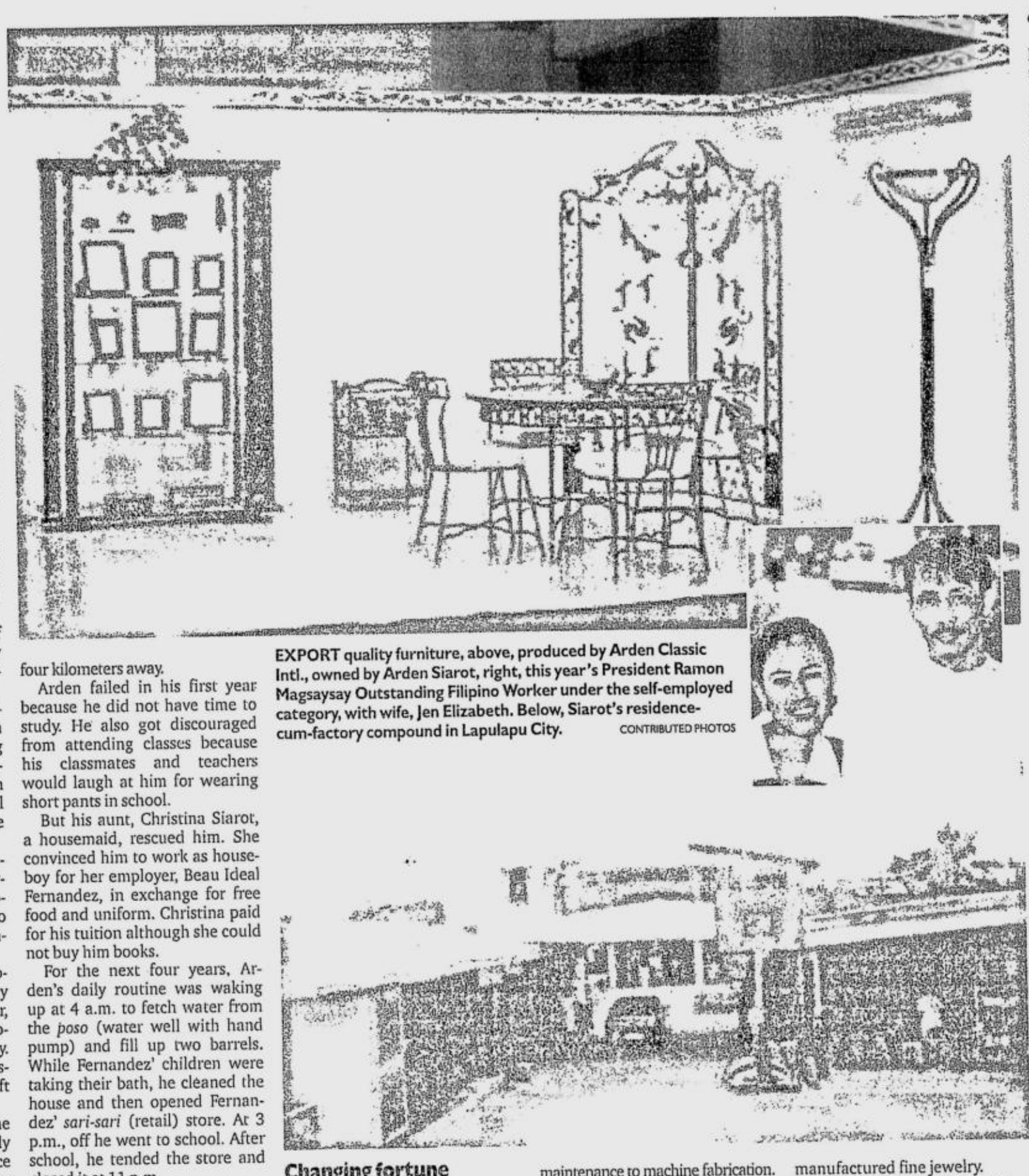
Arden said he still has difficulty grasping the extent with which he has succeeded in life—owning the export company Arden Classic Intl. and becoming a Ramon Magsaysay awardee—because all he had wanted was to climb "one step higher" from being poor.

"Sometimes, I still can't believe this is mine," he said, referring to his house and factory located inside a compound in Sitio Soong II, Barangay Mactan, Lapulapu City, Cebu.

Arden, the eldest of six siblings, was born poor in Barangay Calamba, Cebu City. His father, Agustin, used to make tombstones at the Calamba Cemetery. His mother, Rosario, was a dressmaker. They lived in a makeshift house near the cemetery.

Life was so difficult for the Siarots that they often had only *tinughong* (boiled leftover rice mixed with water and sugar) for dinner. When the children still complained of hunger, Rosario would tell them to just go to sleep.

Arden walked to the Labangon Elementary School, about a kilometer and a half away from their house, all throughout his elementary schooling.



EXPORT quality furniture, above, produced by Arden Classic Intl., owned by Arden Siarot, right, this year's President Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Filipino Worker under the self-employed category, with wife, Jen Elizabeth. Below, Siarot's residence-cum-factory compound in Lapulapu City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Odd jobs

To help the family, he sold candies in school and took odd jobs at the cemetery such as selling melted candles, cleaning tombs and hawking cigarettes.

Sometimes during funerals, he pretended to be one of the guests and fell in line to receive the snacks. He would line up several times so he could give some to his sister who was hiding behind a tree.

He also sold broiled bananas and sweet potatoes in the neighborhood.

After graduating from elementary school in 1976, Arden worked as a helper in an automotive shop. At night, he walked his way to the Abellana National School, about four kilometers away.

Arden failed in his first year because he did not have time to study. He also got discouraged from attending classes because his classmates and teachers would laugh at him for wearing short pants in school.

But his aunt, Christina Siarot, a housemaid, rescued him. She convinced him to work as houseboy for her employer, Beau Ideal Fernandez, in exchange for free food and uniform. Christina paid for his tuition although she could not buy him books.

For the next four years, Arden's daily routine was waking up at 4 a.m. to fetch water from the *poso* (water well with hand pump) and fill up two barrels. While Fernandez' children were taking their bath, he cleaned the house and then opened Fernandez' *sari-sari* (retail) store. At 3 p.m., off he went to school. After school, he tended the store and closed it at 11 p.m.

But his grades got better, even if he had no books. He excelled in science and math. He graduated in 1976.

College was another battle to be fought but this time, he had a "master plan"—to enroll first in a vocational course, then find a job that could support a college education.

"It was important for me to finish college. I believe that if you're a college graduate, it is easier to land a better job," said Arden.

He enrolled at the Don Bosco Manpower Training Program, a one-year course on electro-mechanic offered by the Don Bosco Technical High School (DBTHS) in Barangay Punta Princesa.

This time, he no longer walked to school because he already owned a bicycle. "But it was difficult when it rained. My tears would mix with the rain. I would ask God why we were poor. Success seemed so far," he said.

Changing fortune

After graduation, an Italian instructor whom he remembered as Brother Stephen saw his potential in electro-mechanic. He asked Arden to stay for further training.

But Arden declined because he needed to find a job to help his family and to pay for his college education. But Brother Stephen was not about to let him go. He offered Arden a job at the DBTHS as maintenance electrician at P8 a day. Arden grabbed the offer. A few months later, he had saved enough to go to college.

Looking back, Arden said he did not know how he was able to stretch his meager income—help his siblings who were also studying and at the same time pay for his tuition.

In 1988, Arden graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from the University of San Jose Recolletos.

His eight years at the DBTHS made him acquire different technical skills ranging from machinery maintenance to machine fabrication.

Arden had already accepted a teaching job at the DBTHS when, while waiting for the school to open in June 1989, an Italian exporter of fine jewelry walked into his shop to have the Automatic Control System of his machine fabricated. The Italian was so impressed by Arden's work that he offered him a job.

Arden at first turned down the offer because he already accepted the DBTHS teaching job. But the Italian was persistent and kept visiting Arden in his house. The Italian then asked Arden how much he would be getting from the DBTHS. To ward him off, Arden named an amount double that of what he was to get from the DBTHS. To his surprise, the Italian told him: "Okay, I'll double it."

Torn between his pride and the need to earn, Arden went to Brother Retore, his mentor at DBTHS, who told him to "grab it."

From 1989 to 1991, Arden maintained the machinery that manufactured fine jewelry.

While working with the Italian, Arden met his future wife, Jen Elizabeth Calomarde, a certified public accountant, who worked in the company as bookkeeper. The two got married on June 27, 1992.

In 1991, the Italian shifted to manufacturing novelty items and desktop accessories, which provided Arden additional skills.

Ready to be on his own

It was in 1993 when Arden got restless. He felt he was ready to make it on his own. But his boss prevailed upon him to stay for another year so he could train his replacement. At that time, his Italian boss had sold his shares in the company and went to work as a consultant in a furniture firm.

On June 23, 1993, Arden and Elizabeth started manufacturing miniature dining sets, using their savings and with his brother, Rogelio and a cousin as workers. These were sold to a department store in Cebu but the venture folded up due to a limited market.

Still, Arden was determined. He quit his job in December 1994 to be on his own. Then luck came.

His former boss, the Italian, had asked him to produce "silver solder wires" for the furniture company he was working with.

Because he did not have enough money, Arden obtained a 30-day credit from a jewelry company for his supply of silver. His Italian boss sold him the needed machinery on credit.

He went on to producing brass furniture for his Italian boss. The orders kept on increasing because the company was impressed by Arden's craftsmanship.

With increasing sub-contacting jobs, Arden decided to set up a factory in Barangay Pardo because his workers could no longer be accommodated in the vacant lot near his apartment in Barangay Labangon.

First export

In 1997, Arden approached the Department of Trade and Industry to ask how to market his products. In August that year, Arden Classic Intl. joined an exhibit at SM City Cebu. That was where Arden met his first foreign buyer. He also won two awards during the exhibit—Best Booth Designer and Best Dressed Booth.

Five years later, Arden now exports his products in the US, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Africa. His products have been displayed at the Neiman Marcus Department Store in Los Angeles, one of the biggest and most expensive stores in the US.

He has put up a factory in Lapulapu City, where his house now stands. His factory, in itself, showcases the Filipino ingenuity. Almost all his machines were his innovations, not only to save on capital but also to maximize production.

For instance, he did not buy a new mini vacuum investing and casting machine that would have cost him about P60,000. He instead fabricated his own machine using a surplus car air condition compressor as a vacuum pump, which only cost him P8,000.

Giving back

From two workers, Arden now has 60 workers. Many of his workers were out-of-school youths, some of whom were former drug addicts and small-time drug peddlers from Barangay Pasil.

Giving them a chance to change was Arden's way of giving back to the community the blessings that came his way.

He no longer walks or rides a bike to work. He now owns a car, a truck and two motorcycles.

Still, he remains grounded. "Even now, I still feel the same. I am still struggling," he pointed out.

He considers his Ramon Magsaysay award as a recognition of his effort to pull himself out of poverty.

Yet, Arden feels the struggle is not yet over. He said he now feels a greater sense of responsibility because he believes that once he fails, a lot of people will be affected. His workers are among them.

When asked when will he stop struggling, Arden paused for a while and then said: "I don't know."

Politics 101, Osmeña style

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

WHEN it comes to politics, some members of the Osmeña family know no permanent friends, enemies or relatives.

Well documented is the ugly rivalry between brothers Senator John and former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña whose political ambitions shattered whatever love and bond they had forged through the years. What caused the conflict? Lito reportedly broke his promise to give John a first crack at a high national position by running for vice president in 1992.

Family politics isn't good, Lito wryly admitted recently when confronted with yet another brewing family scandal. This time, it's father against son: Senator John versus Cebu Vice Gov. John-john.

John-john has his sights trained on the top Capitol post, a target he shares with uncle Lito, but his senator father has other plans.

When Senator John told him he couldn't win the governorship, the vice governor shot back: I don't need your support. It was a remark made by a sheltered son eager to step out of his father's shadow, carve out his own identity and prove his independence.

The crack in their relationship first showed last month when they supported different candidates for the provincial federation of barangay councils.

John-john staked his lot with the candidate of Gov. Pablo Garcia against his father's choice. Known for his short fuse, the senator couldn't help but explode.

John-john reacted with indifference: "If he throws me out, (then) I'm out. What can I do?"

"You can fight with your brothers, your cousins. Are you going to fight with your son as well?

"It does not matter how well I do as long as I do as he wants. Wrong if I do not do exactly what he says."

John-john found comfort in the arms of Governor Garcia who sees the young Osmeña as a vital ingredient to his "unity ticket," an idea that he peddles with the persistence—and success—of an encyclopedia salesman.

Already on his third term and out of the Capitol picture, the governor is grooming his daughter Gwen, his heir apparent, to run for vice governor with John-john.

The grizzled veteran butters his ward up well. "I developed an affection for him and learned to like him as a son," Garcia said of John-john.

"Among the Osmeñas, John-john is the brightest and the best hope for national leadership," Garcia said.

When the governor's bet won, John-john apparently made up his mind. "I don't need him (Senator John) as much as I need the governor. His (Garcia) support is far more important."

Now, it was a remark made by a pragmatic politico learning the ropes fast.

If he allied himself with his father, John-john continued, "it might even cause my defeat in the next elections, like what happened to his (Senator Osmeña's) candidates in the last two elections." John-john said he considered his father, more than anyone else, a threat—to his political ambitions.

The senator's answer was swift and emphatic: He cut off all support for the vice governor. The senator was reportedly paying for the vice governor's house rent, security guards, drivers, personal aides and travel expenses, aside from giving him a regular cash allowance.

The older Osmena vented his ire on Governor Garcia, calling him a "lame duck." Garcia called the senator a "loser."

Guess behind whom John-john threw his support?

"I have to support the governor he..." John-john said. "His plans are beneficial to the province of Cebu."

"I would urge my father to set aside his personal agenda. I don't understand him anymore. He's no longer acting like a father," he said. "His acts no longer make sense to me."

They make perfect sense to some Osmena critics who find the quarrel too melodramatic to be real. They suspect the two are merely playacting.

With Senator Osmeña stuck with the opposition, there's no way his son could get the anointment of the ruling party, or they could afford to finance expensive senatorial and gubernatorial campaigns at the same time.

As it is, funding the "John O' commercial basketball team is no joke. This team "advertises" Senator Osmeña instead of a product, a novel and creative campaign strategy not seen previously. But that's another interesting subject.

So, according to the non-believers, father and son have to make it appear like they are parting ways.

No one, however, can be too sure about the truth. In Osmeña family politics, stranger things have happened.

Berroya 'bomb' could be a dud

From page A1

the seized substances could be nothing more than cleaning materials.

"We are convinced that these chemicals could simply be intended for cleaning and laundry use," said Customs Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas, who was one of the first BOC officials to stumble on the controversial cargo loaded in six container vans.

The cargo, which was recently found abandoned in a BOC warehouse, contained 15 drums of sodium xylene sulfonate and 15 bags of sodium nitrate—chemicals that could be used to manufacture bombs. Four other container vans contained cleaning equipment such as skid-mounted chemical cleaning units, circulation pumps, air dryers, oil flushing units, steam generators and office furniture and personal effects.

The cargo was left unclaimed at the South Harbor since it arrived from Saudi Arabia on Sept. 6, 2001, five days before the terrorist attacks in the United States.

Berroya, director of the police Civil Security Group (CSG), went to the Port Area last Thursday to examine the abandoned cargo. His office immediately issued a statement saying it had foiled an attempt by an "alleged international terrorist" to smuggle in explosive ingredients from Saudi Arabia to the Philippines last month.

Told about the BOC's assessment that the chemicals were cleaning materials, Berroya was aghast: "How did that happen? That contradicts earlier pronouncements by BOC officials that these were explosive ingredients."

"Based on crime laboratory test results and the examination of the chemicals, these were explosive ingredients," he told the INQUIRER during a telephone interview.

He demanded to know who released the report that the chemicals were cleaning materials, adding that "I would report them to (Customs Commissioner) Tony Bernardo."

"Maybe somebody is distorting facts and spreading disinformation," Berroya added.

Up for auction

The cargo, declared as "industrial service equipment, chemicals and personal affects," was consigned to Everclean Chemicals Technology Philippines Inc. But it was never claimed.

Cargo left unclaimed for over 30 days is seized in favor of the government.

A year later, on Sept. 6, 2002, as the shipment was being removed from the warehouse for auction, customs personnel noticed that one of the containers contained a bunch of business cards bearing the name of Arild Bjorland, project manager of Everclean of the "Saudi Binladin Group-PCM (Industrial Services)" with a Saudi Arabia address.

Found among Bjorland's personal effects were documents containing names of Arab nationals, including Mohamad Ahmad al-Khalifa, the same name included in a watch list of foreign nationals directly supporting Islamic fundamentalism and extremism. Authorities have yet to establish if this Khalifa is the brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden.

Bombs and soap

In his Oct. 9, 2002 report to Bernardo, Deputy Commissioner Alexander Arevalo noted that the chemicals are "controlled" substance that may be used for the "manufacture of black powder for explosives and fireworks."

But Arevalo also acknowledged that the chemicals "may be used as ingredients for the production of cleaning agents or soap."

"The heavy and bulky skid-mounted cleaning systems that arrived with the chemicals may be used in combination with these chemicals for industrial cleaning purposes," said Arevalo, head of the BOC's management information system and technology group.

Arevalo's report ended thus: "Caveat: The whole world is still reeling from the bombing in Bali, Indonesia. Improper or alarmist media handling of this matter may result in adverse security and economic implications."

It thus came as a surprise to many BOC operatives that on the day President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the arrest of a ranking Abu Sayyaf bomber, Bernardo and Berroya opted to make a dramatic show of opening the seized containers.

"We have been trying to keep it hush-hush so as not to alarm the public," Allas told the INQUIRER.

Allas theorized that the US terror attacks may have scared the cargo owners from claiming them. But recently, he said, a representative from the group came forward and asked that the cargo be shipped to Thailand.

Highly suspicious

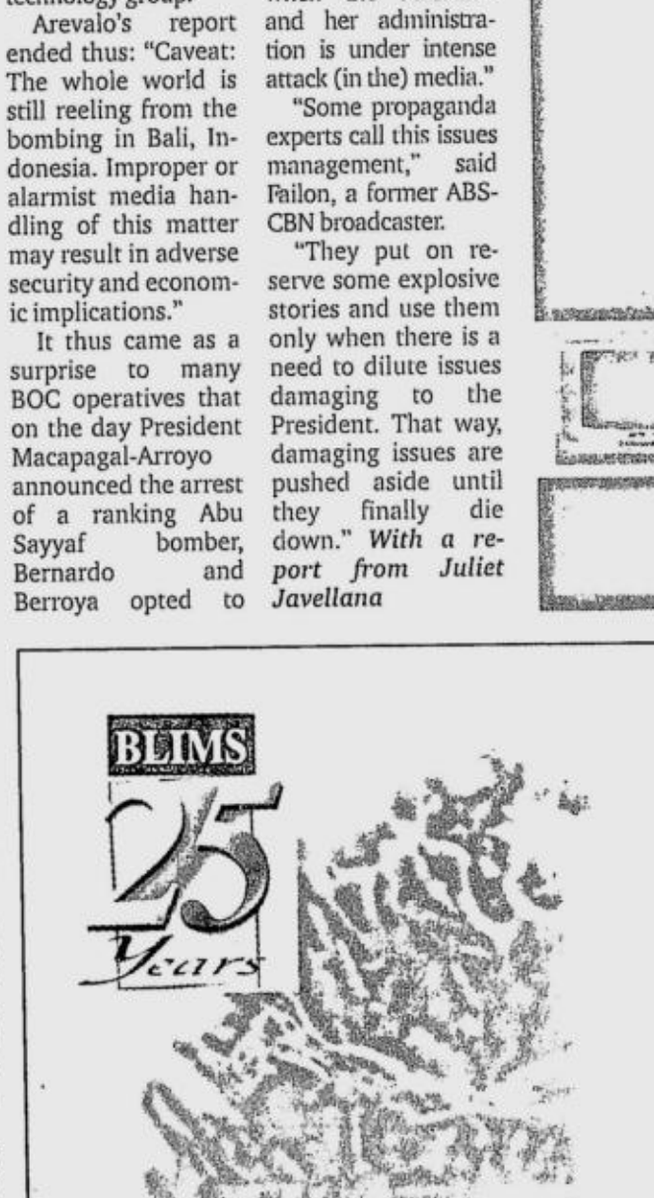
Opposition Rep. Ted Failon said the discovery of the shipment a year after it had sat supposedly unnoticed in a BOC warehouse was highly suspicious.

He said that either the BOC was negligent in it its inspection or the materials were "planted" and conveniently discovered to divert public attention from the scandals hounding the Macapagal administration.

Failon said it was possible the BOC kept the existence of the chemicals under wraps so it could be used as "reserve propaganda arsenal which can be fired when the President and her administration is under intense attack (in the) media."

"Some propaganda experts call this issues management," said Failon, a former ABS-CBN broadcaster.

"They put on reserve some explosive stories and use them only when there is a need to dilute issues damaging to the President. That way, damaging issues are pushed aside until they finally die down." *With a report from Juliet Javellana*



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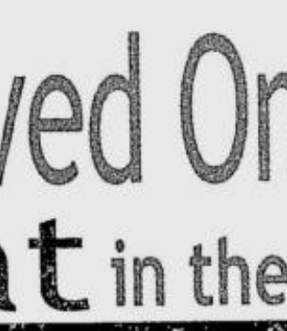

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Meralco loses P28-B case

From page A1

All four other members of the Third Division—Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Renato Corona and Conchita Carpio-Morales—concurred.

The SC gave Meralco the option to "correspondingly" credit the refund to the future electric bills of its consumers.

Under the law, Meralco has 15 days to seek a reconsideration, or to elevate the case to the full 15-man court.

Economic justice

Balancing "public interest" against "private profits," the high tribunal came down strongly on the side of the people's economic rights.

"In Third World countries like the Philippines, equal justice will have a synthetic ring unless the economic rights of the people, especially the poor, are protected with the same resoluteness as their right to liberty," the court ruled.

"In configuring the contours of this economic right to a basic necessity of life (like electricity), the court shall define the limits of the power of respondent Meralco, a giant public utility and monopoly, to charge our people for their electric consumption," the court said.

The 21-page decision did not take into consideration the belated motion Meralco submitted on Nov. 7, since the case had already been submitted for resolution.

In that motion, Meralco presented the ultimate argument: an adverse ruling, it said, would lead to the economy's "inevitable collapse."

Meralco warned of "severe implications," such as severe power outages, its own bankruptcy and probably "financial turmoil."

"Such a scenario will eventually throw the country into financial turmoil, hence, the inevitable collapse of the economy," the power firm claimed.

Reasonable rates

In its 21-page decision, the SC upheld ERB's order for a refund, saying the high court had already held in Ynchausti S.S. Co. vs. Public Utility Commissioner that "there is a legal presumption that the rates fixed by an administrative agency are reasonable."

The high court said the fixing of rates by the government, through its authorized agents, involved "the exercise of reasonable discretion and, unless there is an abuse of that discretion, the courts will not interfere."

Thus, the burden was upon Meralco to prove that the ERB's rates were unreasonable or otherwise confiscatory.

But "Meralco has not adequately shown that the rates prescribed by the ERB are unjust or confiscatory as to deprive its stockholders a reasonable return on investment," the court ruled.

Undisputed facts

The SC said the facts were "brief and undisputed."

It recalled that the controversy started when Meralco filed with the ERB an application for the revision of its rate schedules on Dec. 23, 1993.

The application reflected an average increase of 21 centavos per kWh in its distribution charge. Meralco also asked for provisional approval of the increase

On Jan. 28, 1994, the ERB granted a provisional increase of P0.184 per kWh, but on the condition that the consumers would be entitled to a refund should the Commission on Audit find that Meralco was entitled to a smaller increase.

On Feb. 11, 1997, the COA recommended that Meralco should not classify the taxes it paid as an operating expense. It said that Meralco since 1994 had been earning a return-on-rate base (RORB) of 21 percent, or above the 12-percent ceiling set by law for public utilities.

COA found that Meralco was enjoying excessive profits after it raised its rate by 18 centavos per kWh in February 1994.

The power distributor also allowed consumers to shoulder its income tax to increase its asset base, further deflating the RORB.

To further raise its asset base, COA said that Meralco included items that were not related to its business like the Meralco theater, a recreation center and hospital, a shooting range and a Computer Information Service Building.

The ERB then adopted COA's findings and authorized Meralco to increase its rates by P0.017 per kWh, retroactive to February 1994.

This meant that Meralco could retain only 1.7 centavos of the 18.4 centavos per kWh provisionally approved in 1994. Refunding the rest would then allow the company to stay within the 12-percent RORB limit.

Thus, the SC noted: "The ERB further ordered that the 'provisional relief in the amount of P0.184 per kWh is hereby superseded and modified and the excess average amount of P0.167 per kWh starting with billing cycles beginning February 1994 until billing cycles beginning February 1998, be refunded to customers or correspondingly credited in their favor for future consumption," said the SC.

SC intervention

However, the Court of Appeals struck down the ERB ruling and sided with Meralco. The petitioners—ERB and Lawyers against Monopoly and Poverty led by lawyer Ceferino Padua and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr.—sought a reconsideration, but to no avail.

The petitioners then elevated the case to the SC on two grounds: that the CA erred in treating Meralco's income taxes as an operating expense and thus considered in determining the amount of increase in rates imposed by Meralco; and that it erred in rejecting the net average investment method used by the COA and the ERB, and instead adopted the average investment method used by Meralco.

In granting the ERB petition, the Third Division said that "the regulation of rates to be charged by public utilities is founded upon the police powers of the state and statutes prescribing rules for the control and regulation of public utilities are a valid exercise thereof."

It explained that when a private property was used for a public purpose and was affected with private interest, "it ceases to be juris privati only and becomes subject to regulation."

The regulation was aimed to promote the "common good," said the SC.

However, the SC explained that in regulating the rates charged by public utilities, the state could not prescribe rates "which are so low as to deprive the public utility of a reasonable return of investment."

In the fixing of rates, the only standard which the legislature required was that the rate should be reasonable and just.

"What is a just and reasonable rate is a question of fact calling for the exercise of discretion, good sense, and a fair, enlightened and independent judgment," said the SC.

It then held that ERB's decision should be respected because "the rate of return of a public utility is not prescribed by statute but by administrative and judicial pronouncements."

"The ERB correctly ruled that income tax should not be included in the computation of operating expenses of a public utility" because it was inconsistent with the nature of operating expenses, the court said.

Income tax should be borne by the taxpayer alone and not passed on to consumers "as they are payments in exchange for benefits received by the taxpayer from the state," the SC added.

"Accordingly, the burden of paying income tax should be Meralco's alone and should not be shifted to the consumers by including the same in the computation of its operating expenses," the court ruled.

Independent study

An independent study submitted to Malacañang in May this year found that Meralco had indeed been overcharging its customers by as much as P40.8 centavos per kWh.

The study found that the bulk of the increase being sought by the Lopez-controlled company was an item that the ERB had already disallowed.

The independent study based its findings on Meralco's application with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for unbundled rates.

Meralco had sought a P1.12-per-kWh rate increase in its unbundling petition. It justified the demand by calculating a total revenue requirement of P150 billion.

However, the study instead recommended that Meralco reduce its rates by 40.8 centavos per kWh.

It said that Meralco based its unbundling petition on a 17-percent RORB. In contrast, the study computed Meralco's total revenue requirement to run a profitable business at P121.4 billion, on an RORB of 12 percent.

The study said that unbundling referred to itemizing the total monthly electricity bill received by consumers into generation, transmission, distribution, supply, metering and universal charges.

It was conducted to help find relief from high electricity rates arising from the imposition of the purchased power adjustment (PPA).

PPA is an automatic cost recovery scheme that the Napocor and distribution utilities set to cover fluctuations in fuel prices, power costs and foreign exchange rates.

PALACE blasts Meralco's doomsday argument as a mistake saying it intended influence the Supreme Court decision.

Meralco sees loans default . . .

From page A1

Its domestic A shares slid by 3.5 percent, or 50 centavos, to P13.5.

"The ruling is expected to put extreme pressure on Meralco," a Standard & Poor's report said. "The company has not made any provision against the potential liability, and its resources to reimburse customers and meet other financial obligations are limited."

The Palace reaction to Meralco's belated motion, which argued that an unfavorable decision would lead to the economy's "inevitable collapse," was also sharp.

"We take exception to the bleak economic scenario Meralco's lawyers had foisted before the Supreme Court and media if their client loses its case," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"There is no doubt that all our financial system and our national electricity infrastructure will weather the problems of one corporation," he added.

Surprise, sadness

Francisco said company officials were "surprised and deeply saddened" by the outcome.

He said the Court had apparently not addressed a similar motion filed by the Philippine Electric Plant Owners Association, a group of private distribution utilities.

"The decision has serious implications on our company and—while we shall try to cope as best as we can under such an environment—we still believe utilities like Meralco are entitled to a reasonable return," he said, adding: "This decision affects not just Meralco, but all private electric utilities in the country, including the National Transmission Corp. which is about to be privatized."

Meralco's chief finance officer, Daniel Tagaza, said that the 16.7-centavo refund ordered by the high court would eat up about P3.75 billion a year of the utility's revenues.

Tagaza said that considering that Meralco's financial performance had been deteriorating, the Supreme Court ruling would push down further the company's ability to meet its covenants with its lenders.

"With this decision, the only commitment we can meet is the ratio of debt to equity that our creditors prescribed," he said.

He said Meralco's total loans from bilateral and multilateral lenders reached P31 billion, of which P9 billion were short-term.

Tagaza said P7 billion of the P22 billion in long-term loans was guaranteed by government financial institutions.

Andrada said that the firm had an obligation to pay P4.8 billion in principal payments next year.

"With that amount, and P28 billion (to refund), I don't know how Meralco could manage," he said.

Francisco said: "I hope that the Supreme Court, in deciding on the case, would take into consideration our ability to provide the basic service of electricity to our customers. I think our customers' concern is paramount to the Court's decision."

The company is 24 percent-owned by government agencies and 16 percent by the powerful Lopez family.

Government takeover?

In Congress, lawmakers urged the government to take over Meralco.

"They (Meralco) said they would be on the verge of collapse, so government should take over," House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said in a phone interview.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said Meralco has to pay the refund "or all hell will break lose."

"If it can't pay its obligation, then government should take over," said Suplico, who had earlier filed, with the House minority, a bill seeking a government takeover of Meralco and other private firms in the power industry.

He said that the Constitution provides for a government takeover of public utilities in times of calamity, noting the collapse of Meralco would be a "calamity" itself.

"We're glad that the Supreme Court was not influenced by Meralco's intimidation," Padilla said.

Party-list representatives in Congress echoed the call for a takeover, with Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales saying that the leaders of her group, Bayan Muna, APEC, Cibac and Butil were one in saying that "if Meralco refuses to pay up, the government should get back the distribution utilities of Meralco and have government take over."

"This is our collective stand," said Rosales.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore) said Meralco's fears about economic collapse was an admission of its inefficiency.

"This gives the government reason to take over Meralco and the National Electrification Administration can do that," Nasecore president Pete Ilagan said in a telephone interview.

In Malacanang, Tiglao said the power firm's doomsday argument was a mistake. "Meralco's lawyers should not spread in media unfounded fears and claims intended to influence the justices' decision," he said.

Tiglao also said that the "executive branch of government is mandated by the Constitution to implement all the decisions of the judicial branch."

The SC order will worsen the woes of the power distributor which has already been unsuccessfully petitioning the government for a power rate increase. *With a report from Christine O. Avendano, Gerald G. Lacuarta, AFP, Reuters*

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Lawmaker passes buck; dodges $1-M question

From page A1

na with the Argentinian firm Impsa.

"I refuse to be used in the personal feud between Nani and Ping. I'm being baited by Ping to name Nani, but I have no proof. If he has the evidence, why doesn't he file charges himself?" the congressman said, adding:

"I don't invent evidence. They don't teach this in Harvard."

Lacson challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to show sincerity in initiating the lifestyle check on members of her Cabinet by ordering an "honest-to-goodness" investigation of the supposed payoff.

"It's disheartening (that Perez and Villarama met)," Lacson said in reference to the two men's meeting Thursday night after which the justice secretary announced to reporters that he was not the official cited in Villarama's blind exposé in a privilege speech delivered Nov. 12.

Lacson also assailed Malacañang's "standard of justice," as supposedly shown in Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's warning Thursday against the airing of "blanket accusations" in the media.

"But when I was being hit by military intelligence chief Col. Victor) Corpus, (Malacañang) was urging everybody to go after me," he said.

Lacson said that if the Senate blue ribbon committee decided to look into the supposed bribe-taking, he would ask that Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez be summoned to testify.

"For sure their heads will burst (with his testimony)," Lacson said. He also said that while he had copies of documents pertaining to the alleged payoff, "Jimenez has the original copies."

The senator had earlier confirmed Villarama's blind exposé and identified Perez as the "million-dollar man." He also named Jimenez as his and Villarama's source.

Perez, however, declared that he would not be intimidated by Lacson's claim that he was the "million-dollar" Cabinet official.

"I was mentioned by only one person—Sen. Ping Lacson. It is absolutely false . . . This was discussed during my confirmation hearing, and nothing came out of it," Perez said at a ceremony to mark the renaming of the Iloilo Hall of Justice in honor of Chief Justice Ramon Q. Avancena.

"The obvious reason is that I am prosecuting him (Lacson), and I will continue prosecuting him . . ." Perez added. "If he thinks I will be cowed by his insinuations (and) lies, he is mistaken because I will do my job as secretary of justice no matter what. I am not guilty of any wrongdoing in this case."

Hundreds of justice employees, top government officials and other guests applauded Perez's remarks.

'I accused nobody'

After his meeting with Villarama, supposedly brokered by no less than the President, Perez told reporters that he felt "vindicated."

Villarama said yesterday in a phone interview: "I can assure everybody that I did not mention any names (in my speech). I accused nobody, so I don't have to clear anybody."

Asked what he had told Perez, he said: "I am not referring to you or to any Cabinet member. I am just quoting the person who gave the information and documents to me."

Villarama reiterated that a businessman-friend of his had told him about another businessman who was the victim of the $2-million extortion.

He claimed that his friend did not name the Cabinet official or the victim.

At the meeting, Villarama said he again aired his defense that he did not name Perez in his privilege speech. He said he confessed sadness that his exposé had subjected Perez to intense criticism in the media.

Perez, in turn, supposedly explained to Villarama that he did not challenge the congressman to name names.

Villarama's supposed reason for delivering the speech was that Perez, in media reports, had dared him to identify the Cabinet official who, the congressman had earlier told a newspaper reporter, received $2 million from an Estrada crony who was in some kind of problem.

Perez was accompanied by his son, Batangas Rep. Frank Perez, at the meeting.

Villarama told the INQUIRER that Perez was "very open" and agreed with his two requests—that agents of the National Bureau of Investigation be sent to trace the bank accounts in Uruguay, New York and Hong Kong through which the $2 million passed, and that the extortion victim be put in the government's witness protection program.

The congressman lamented that he was drawing flak for his exposé. He said the public should not think that he had been bought or frightened into not naming the Cabinet official.

"I just received the information and I'm still looking at the (documents). But I don't have the name so I'm just being prudent," he said.

'Powerful people'

In his speech in Iloilo City, Perez said "powerful people" wanted him out of the Department of Justice.

"They are probably thinking that if Nani Perez is out of the (DOJ) they will (be) safe because somebody else will prosecute them," he said.

He did not name the people supposedly after him, but he later told reporters that the group included politicians, drug lords and kidnappers.

Perez also said there was no basis for the suspicion that he had taken a bribe. He appealed to the media "to please examine the facts and to base reports on facts, not on *chismis* (gossip) because it is most unfair."

"The only thing that I value in this life is my reputation. I have served and continue to serve this republic without any blemish," he said.

But in Manila, Sen. Edgardo Angara said Perez "must confront the issue and come out with facts and figures if he really did not receive $2 million from the Impsa transaction."

"If I were he, I would submit voluntarily to an internal investigation," Angara said. "That is the way to clear his name because just kissing and hugging will linger in the minds of the public."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon noted that while it was "the job of the opposition to . . . expose the mismanagement of the government, this is now being done by people who are identified allies of the President."

It was a reference to Villarama, who served then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo as chief of staff.

'I don't know him'

Reacting to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's statement Thursday that he should name names or risk sanctions by the House, Villarama told the INQUIRER in Malolos City that it was "clear" in his privileged speech that he did not know the official in question.

"Until now I don't know him," Villarama said.

The congressman said nobody could force him to say something he could not prove. "What document am I holding for me to point at someone? Do they want me to reckless name people?" he said.

He also pointed out that he and Perez did not "kiss and make up" at the meeting because they were "not fighting" in the first place. *With reports from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Nestor P. Burgos PDI Visayas Bureau*

No need for Cabinet men to quit, says Palace

From page A1

days now in claiming—always quoting an unnamed source—a plan for a Cabinet revamp."

He said Ms Macapagal would make changes in her Cabinet "the moment there is a need to do so, with or without courtesy resignations."

"So-called courtesy resignations are neither necessary nor relevant for the President's decision to make Cabinet changes," he added.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was quoted in reports by radio stations dzMM, dzRH and RMN as saying that he submitted his courtesy resignation as early as Wednesday.

Camacho, along with Secretaries Manuel Roxas (trade) and Heherson Alvarez (environment) and housing chief Michael Defensor, was with the President yesterday when she addressed the joint foreign chambers of commerce at the Shangri-la hotel in Makati City.

The three radio stations reported that Roxas submitted his resignation letter yesterday morning, and Defensor, Thursday evening.

The stations also quoted Alvarez as saying that he and Energy Secretary Vicente Perez had agreed to turn in their courtesy resignations anytime soon. Perez was not at the affair.

Tiglao said he was not sure whether the courtesy resignations submitted had even reached the President.

Asked what would happen to the letters, he said these would "probably (land in) the archives or the wastebasket."

'Delicadeza'

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Cabinet secretaries should tender their courtesy resignations at the end of each year even without an impending revamp.

Speaking at a press conference, Drilon said *delicadeza* (or a sense of honor) dictated that Cabinet members submit to a yearly review of their performance by giving the President a free hand to reappoint them.

"With or without a Cabinet revamp, they should do that every year as a matter of tradition," he said.

Camacho was quoted as saying that he submitted his courtesy resignation quietly in order to squelch persistent speculation that he was on the way out.

Sources said that in the wake of published reports yesterday that Defensor had tendered his courtesy resignation, female Cabinet members and advisers of the President started talking about doing the same.

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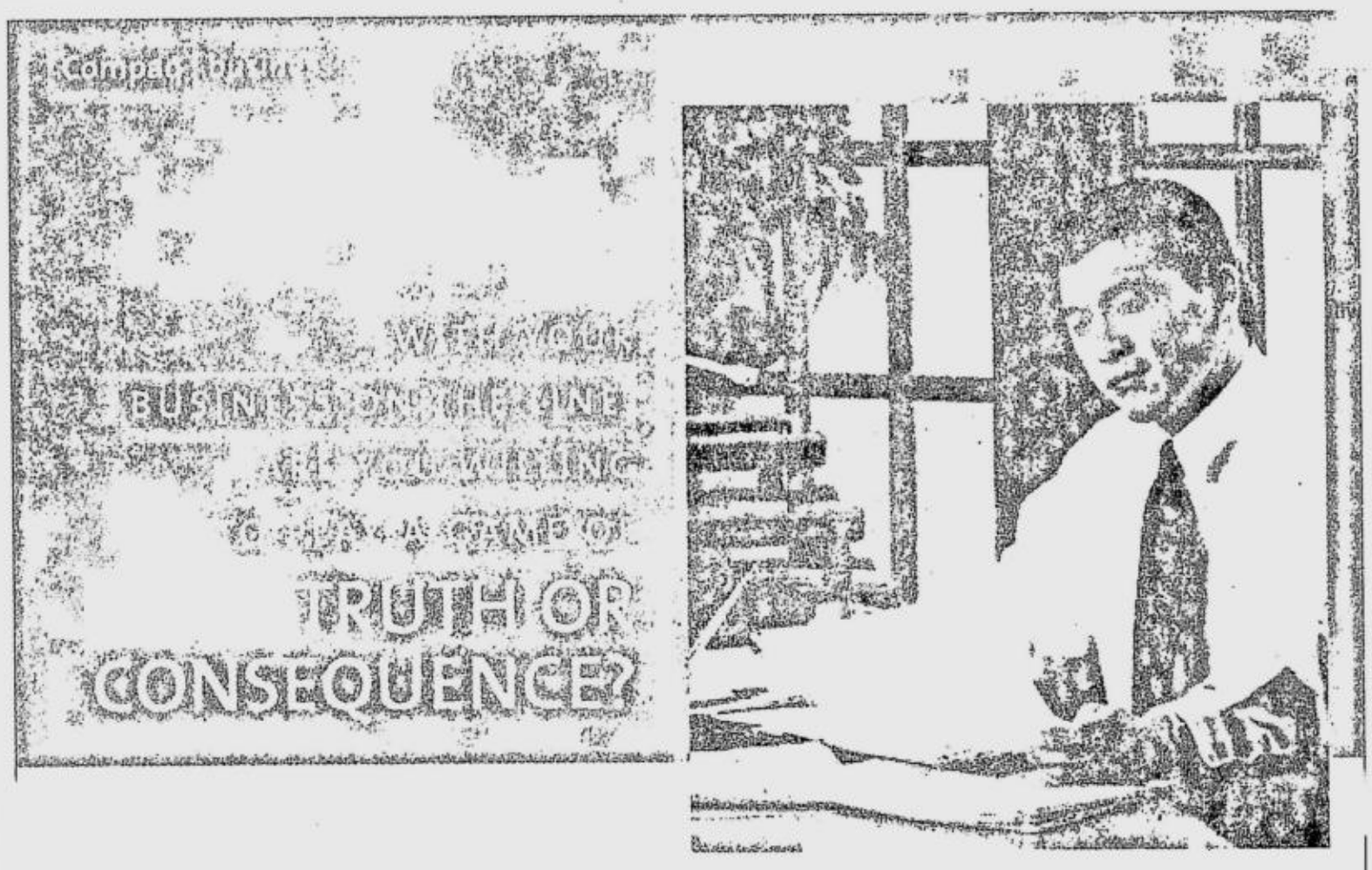

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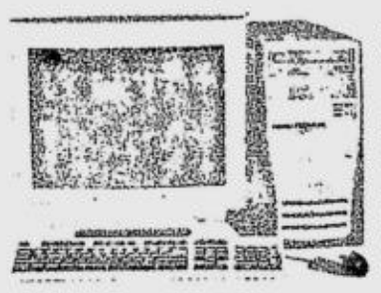

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Per DTI Permit No. 2219, Series of 2002.

Lawmaker passes buck; dodges $1-M question

From page A1

na with the Argentinian firm Impsa.

"I refuse to be used in the personal feud between Nani and Ping. I'm being baited by Ping to name Nani, but I have no proof. If he has the evidence, why doesn't he file charges himself?" the congressman said, adding:

"I don't invent evidence. They don't teach this in Harvard."

Lacson challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to show sincerity in initiating the lifestyle check on members of her Cabinet by ordering an "honest-to-goodness" investigation of the supposed payoff.

"It's disheartening (that Perez and Villarama met)," Lacson said in reference to the two men's meeting Thursday night after which the justice secretary announced to reporters that he was not the official cited in Villarama's blind exposé in a privilege speech delivered Nov. 12.

Lacson also assailed Malacañang's "standard of justice," as supposedly shown in Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's warning Thursday against the airing of "blanket accusations" in the media.

"But when I was being hit by military intelligence chief Col. Victor) Corpus, (Malacañang) was urging everybody to go after me," he said.

Lacson said that if the Senate blue ribbon committee decided to look into the supposed bribe-taking, he would ask that Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez be summoned to testify.

"For sure their heads will burst (with his testimony)," Lacson said. He also said that while he had copies of documents pertaining to the alleged payoff, "Jimenez has the original copies."

The senator had earlier confirmed Villarama's blind exposé and identified Perez as the "million-dollar man." He also named Jimenez as his and Villarama's source.

Perez, however, declared that he would not be intimidated by Lacson's claim that he was the "million-dollar" Cabinet official.

"I was mentioned by only one person—Sen. Ping Lacson. It is absolutely false . . . This was discussed during my confirmation hearing, and nothing came out of it," Perez said at a ceremony to mark the renaming of the Iloilo Hall of Justice in honor of Chief Justice Ramon Q. Avancena.

"The obvious reason is that I am prosecuting him (Lacson), and I will continue prosecuting him . . ." Perez added. "If he thinks I will be cowed by his insinuations (and) lies, he is mistaken because I will do my job as secretary of justice no matter what. I am not guilty of any wrongdoing in this case."

Hundreds of justice employees, top government officials and other guests applauded Perez's remarks.

'I accused nobody'

After his meeting with Villarama, supposedly brokered by no less than the President, Perez told reporters that he felt "vindicated."

Villarama said yesterday in a phone interview: "I can assure everybody that I did not mention any names (in my speech). I accused nobody, so I don't have to clear anybody."

Asked what he had told Perez, he said: "I am not referring to you or to any Cabinet member. I am just quoting the person who gave the information and documents to me."

Villarama reiterated that a businessman-friend of his had told him about another businessman who was the victim of the $2-million extortion.

He claimed that his friend did not name the Cabinet official or the victim.

At the meeting, Villarama said he again aired his defense that he did not name Perez in his privilege speech. He said he confessed sadness that his exposé had subjected Perez to intense criticism in the media.

Perez, in turn, supposedly explained to Villarama that he did not challenge the congressman to name names.

Villarama's supposed reason for delivering the speech was that Perez, in media reports, had dared him to identify the Cabinet official who, the congressman had earlier told a newspaper reporter, received $2 million from an Estrada crony who was in some kind of problem.

Perez was accompanied by his son, Batangas Rep. Frank Perez, at the meeting.

Villarama told the INQUIRER that Perez was "very open" and agreed with his two requests—that agents of the National Bureau of Investigation be sent to trace the bank accounts in Uruguay, New York and Hong Kong through which the $2 million passed, and that the extortion victim be put in the government's witness protection program.

The congressman lamented that he was drawing flak for his exposé. He said the public should not think that he had been bought or frightened into not naming the Cabinet official.

"I just received the information and I'm still looking at the (documents). But I don't have the name so I'm just being prudent," he said.

'Powerful people'

In his speech in Iloilo City, Perez said "powerful people" wanted him out of the Department of Justice.

"They are probably thinking that if Nani Perez is out of the (DOJ) they will (be) safe because somebody else will prosecute them," he said.

He did not name the people supposedly after him, but he later told reporters that the group included politicians, drug lords and kidnappers.

Perez also said there was no basis for the suspicion that he had taken a bribe. He appealed to the media "to please examine the facts and to base reports on facts, not on *chismis* (gossip) because it is most unfair."

"The only thing that I value in this life is my reputation. I have served and continue to serve this republic without any blemish," he said.

But in Manila, Sen. Edgardo Angara said Perez "must confront the issue and come out with facts and figures if he really did not receive $2 million from the Impsa transaction."

"If I were he, I would submit voluntarily to an internal investigation," Angara said. "That is the way to clear his name because just kissing and making up is will [illegible] minds of the public."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon noted that while it was "the job of the opposition to . . . expose the mismanagement of the government, this is now being done by people who are identified allies of the President."

It was a reference to Villarama, who served then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo as chief of staff.

'I don't know him'

Reacting to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's statement Thursday that he should name names or risk sanctions by the House, Villarama told the INQUIRER in Malolos City that it was "clear" in his privileged speech that he did not know the official in question.

"Until now I don't know him," Villarama said.

The congressman said nobody could force him to say something he could not prove. "What document am I holding for me to point at someone? Do they want me to fabricate name people?" he said.

He also pointed out that he and Perez did not "kiss and make up" at the meeting because they were "not fighting" in the place. *With reports from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau*

No need for Cabinet men to quit, says Palace

From page A1

days now in claiming—always quoting an unnamed source—a plan for a Cabinet revamp."

He said Ms Macapagal would make changes in her Cabinet "the moment there is a need to do so, with or without courtesy resignations."

"So-called courtesy resignations are neither necessary nor relevant for the President's decision to make Cabinet changes," he added.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was quoted in reports by radio stations dzMM, dzRH and RMN as saying that he submitted his courtesy resignation as early as Wednesday.

Camacho, along with Secretaries Manuel Roxas (trade) and Heherson Alvarez (environment) and housing chief Michael Defensor, was with the President yesterday when she addressed the joint foreign chambers of commerce at the Shangri-la hotel in Makati City.

The three radio stations reported that Roxas submitted his resignation letter yesterday morning, and Defensor, Thursday evening.

The stations also quoted Alvarez as saying that he and Energy Secretary Vicente Perez had agreed to turn in their courtesy resignations anytime soon. Perez was not at the affair.

Tiglao said he was not sure whether the courtesy resignations submitted had even reached the President.

Asked what would happen to the letters, he said these would "probably (land in) the archives or the wastebasket."

'Delicadeza'

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Cabinet secretaries should tender their courtesy resignations at the end of each year even without an impending revamp.

Speaking at a press conference, Drilon said *delicadeza* (or a sense of honor) dictated that Cabinet members submit to a yearly review of their performance by giving the President a free hand to reappoint them.

"With or without a Cabinet revamp, they should do that every year as a matter of tradition," he said.

Camacho was quoted as saying that he submitted his courtesy resignation quietly in order to squelch persistent speculation that he was on the way out.

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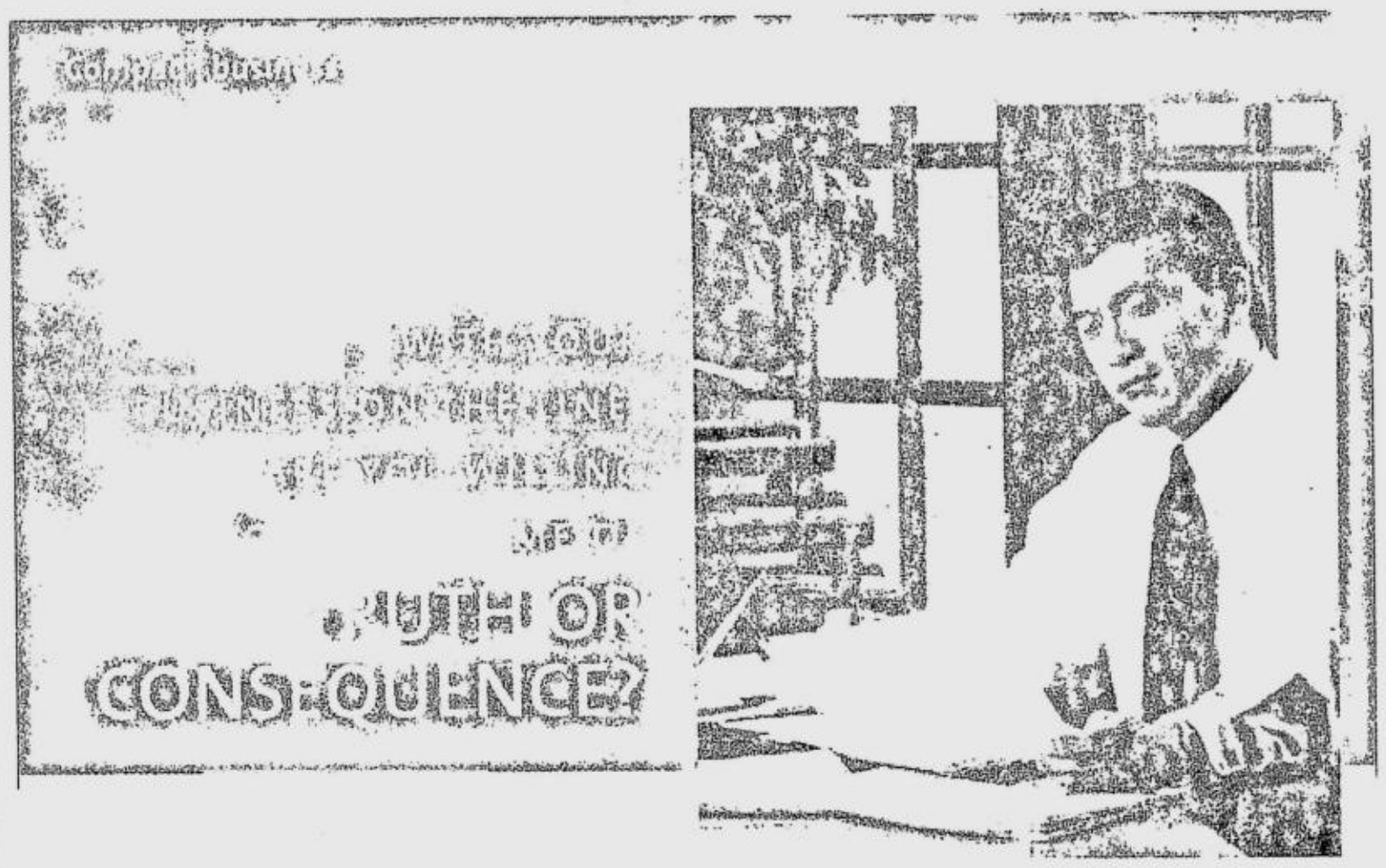

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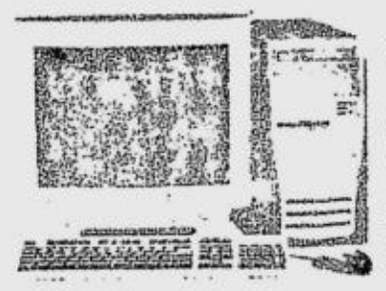

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SPORTS
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Yankees pay pitcher $11.5M

Settling one of their biggest issues regarding pitchers in 2003, the New York Yankees exercised their contract option to keep left-handed pitcher Andy Pettitte next season for $11.5 million. The Yankees, who lost the 2001 World Series and in the first round of this year's Major League Baseball playoffs, face hard salary cap decisions in the wake of a new working agreement between owners and players. *AFP*

RIVIERA'S COUPLES

2 pairs share U-Bix lead

SILANG, Cavite–Marlon Dizon and Bones Floro birdied the last hole yesterday to earn a share of the lead with one round left in the U-Bix Riviera National Pro Am.

Dizon, playing only his fourth tournament as a pro, hit an 80-yard wedge shot to within two feet for the birdie on 18 and a 2-over-par 74 that brought his partnership with Floro to a tie with Vince Lauron and Paul Salvador.

P50-T PUTT
Nokia Intervillage participant Tony Katigbak of Magallanes Village does a body English after missing a putt that would have given him a P50,000 prize from Master Card. The Nokia event resumes on Nov. 18 at The Orchard.

Lauron and Salvador bogeyed the same hole on a missed green for a 73 at Riviera's Couples in the series staking P1 million through U-Bix president Bert Bravo.

"Sana manalo na bukas (I hope I'll finally win tomorrow)," said Lauron, 32, a dealer of San Miguel Corporation products in Taguig, who turned pro a while back after many stints as a national player.

Lauron and Salvador, 31, were at 224 after earlier rounds of 75-76 in the one-ball, twosome event that stakes a Toyota Altis 1.8 as a hole-in-one prize at No. 6.

But while Lauron and Salvador yearn for a first-ever victory, the same goes for Dizon and Floro.

"We will go all out tomorrow," said Dizon. "Bones is very steady, specially with his putting. Hopefully, we will click again and nail my first win with him."

Dizon almost made history last month when he missed winning a tournament in his debut, losing in a playoff. He placed 7th and 14th, respectively, in his next two tournaments.

Yesterday, they finished birdie-par-birdie to offset bogeys on 9 and 10. They double-bogeyed the par-3 8th on a missed green and a three-putt miscue.

"We are happy with our 74, particularly because we birdied 18," said Floro, grandson of the late Crispa basketball manager Danny who won the PAL Elite at Wack Wack last week. "We made a 7 there yesterday on a bad tee shot."

The tournament is being supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Citgo, Pagcor, Bravo Golf, San Miguel Corporation, Grappa's, Konica Corporation, Mizuno, DHL-WWW Express, Cena's, Pivo Praha Beer and Caffe Appassionato. *Al S. Mendoza*

Other scores:
225--A. Eso-A Eso 75-76-74, E Bagtas-Kim CH 70-79-76.
226--J. Pagunsan-J. Pagunsan 76-71-79.
227--R. Minoza-P. Minoza 78-74-75.
230--R. Cuello-JV Tecson 78-76-76.
232--C. Nival-J. Bernis 81-73-78.
233--R. Cabajar-F. Baligasa 79-77-77, R. Banares-E. Escalona 77-74-82.
234--V. Santia-U. Hanada 79-80-75, J. Casas-B. Zaragosa 81-76-77, R. Garalde-J. Laput 79-75-80.
235--E. Estrera-A. Brixton 83-77-75, D. Saclot-J. Delariarte 78-79-78, E. Olaybar-J. Binag 83-73-79, A. Que-S. Bedi 79-76-80, A. Cruz-B. Bakunawa 80-74-81.
236--R. Marcelo--J. San Vicente 78-82-76.
237-T. Lasciina-T. Escano 81-78-78.

DIZON (left) studies his line of putt, with Floro sizing up things. JESS YUSON

Tiger backs $5-M event

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

ST. AUGUSTINE, Florida—The PGA Tour is returning to the Boston area for the first time in five years with a $5-million event that will end on Labor Day and feature Tiger Woods, whose foundation will get the charitable proceeds.

The tournament will be called the Deutsche Bank US Championship and will be played at the TPC of Boston for at least the first two years of the four-year contract, the PGA Tour and IMG announced Thursday.

While Woods will not be the tournament host in the same fashion as Jack Nicklaus (Memorial Tournament) or Arnold Palmer (Bay Hill Invitational), the world's No. 1 player will be heavily involved through his foundation.

"We are confident the tournament will be well-received," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said.

RPN 9 features Golf Power today

GOLF Power today will feature the 2002 Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles Elite Invitational Golf Tournament at Wack Wack over RPN 9 starting at 2 p.m.

The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports, with PAL, Airbus Industrie, Boeing and Air Philippines as sponsors.

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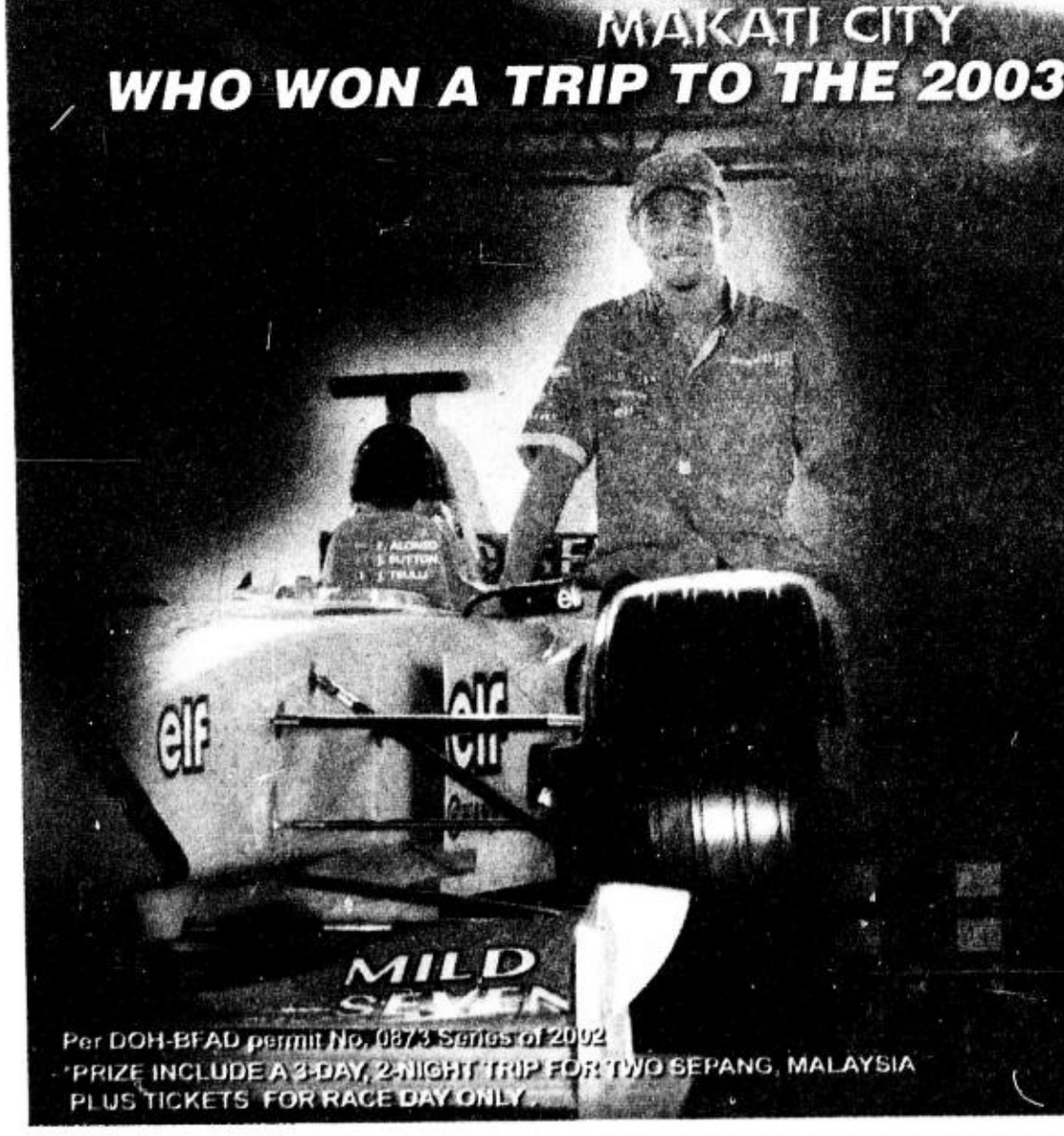

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MILD SEVEN RENAULT F1 TEAM PIT UMBRELLAS
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3. Crispin S. Cruz, 57, Cainta, Rizal
4. Charles Nequinto, 36, Makati City
5. Corazon P. Peralta, 31, Quezon City
6. Eduardo I. Salas, 28, Ermita, Manila
7. Alfonso Teotico, 43, Quezon City
MILD SEVEN RENAULT F1 TEAM RACING BAGS
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2. Virginia F. Dela Rosa, 33, Quezon City
3. Carl Escolar, 31, Quezon City
4. Nadja Gaerlan, 26, Makati City
5. Jun Morales, 31, Pasig City
6. Anthony T. Patriarca, 45, Antipolo City
7. Rustom P. Sto. Domingo, Jr., 33, Quezon City
MILD SEVEN RENAULT F1 TEAM RAIN JACKE
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2. Ven Ryan Cruz, 23, Quezon City
3. Ian Frayco, 19, Quezon City
4. Daryl Scott G. Lleva, 20, Quezon City
5. Elizabeth P. Melchor, 46, Mandaluyong City
6. John P. Melchor, 38, Quezon City
7. Matthew R. Sanvictores, 21, Quezon City
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PBL GOES TO LIPA

ICTSI prodigal son back vs Cheeseballs-Shark today

GAMES TODAY *(Lipa City Convention Center)*
2 p.m.--ICTSI vs Cheeseballs-Shark
4 p.m.--LBC-Batangas vs Sunkist

By Dennis U. Eroa

ICTSI-La Salle welcomes back its prodigal son as it clashes with Cheeseballs-Shark today even as LBC-Batangas shows its stuff before its hometown crowd by battling Sunkist in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Lipa City Convention Center.

James Yap, who missed ICTSI's first two games and did not practice with his team during the preseason following a contractual dispute, had a sudden change of mind, opting not to sit out and fulfill his obligation with the Archers.

COMPTON

Yap's presence will give ICTSI an added offensive punch as it tackles Cheeseballs-Shark in the opener at 2 p.m.

LBC-Batangas meets Sunkist at 4 p.m.

ICTSI, Cheeseballs-Shark and LBC are carrying identical 1-1 cards.

Yap, Bruce Dacia and Reynel Hugnatan gave ICTSI a deadly frontline. ICTSI is also getting splendid shows from foxy pointguard Dino Aldeguer.

Aldeguer has provided stability to ICTSI's offense in the absence of Mike Cortez.

Cheeseballs-Shark is aiming to bounce back after losing to Welcoat, 67-62. Stephen Padilla, Warren Ybañez and Gerald Ortega are expected to play crucial roles.

Alex Compton has continued to draw the crowd with his sharp-shooting ways, while Miko Roldan is rediscovering his old, deadly self playing the middle for the Blades.

NBA RESULTS
Washington 105, Utah 102; Philadelphia 99, San Antonio 94; Orlando 101, LA Clippers 80

November is women and sports month, says GMA

MACAPAGAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has issued Proclamation No. 286 declaring the month of November "Women and Sports Month."

Highlighting the occasion is the staging of the first ever Philippine Congress on Women and Sports on Nov. 21-24 at the Tagaytay International Convention Center in Tagaytay City.

The theme is "Converging the Divergence of Philippine Womensports: Issues, Actions and Initiatives."

The President directed "all heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations and instrumentalities of the government, particularly the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, to give full assistance to the Organizing Committee of the 1st Philippine Congress on Women and Sports."

More than 500 participants are expected to attend the four-day meet that is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Pagcor, Unilever, PCSO, Department of Tourism, DILG, Femina, PLDT, San Miguel Corp., Nextel, Boehringer Ingelheim, Web Phils., Microtel Inn & Suites, Net 25, Manila Times, Woman Today and the City of Tagaytay.

For other details, call 303-1024, 303-1030 or 404-2038.

Pinoys, Belgians share Petron honors

SUBIC—Filipinos Vip Isada and co-driver Robbie Hermoso snatched the National Rally Championship trophy on the second and final day of the Petron Rally Pilipinas held over the weekend at the Subic Remifield parking lot.

They shared the limelight with Belgians Martin Quarties and navigator Nico Artois who claimed the overall honors.

Driving trouble-free aboard their reliable Seat Ibiza, the Beligians blitzed the 41.40-km leg in one minute, 29.30 seconds to beat compatriots Peter Desmet and co-driver Frankly Beel, who clocked 1:30.59.

The Isada-Hermoso duo timed 1:38.08 for third overall.

Expert driving of their Honda City under overcast skies allowed Isada and Hermoso to salvage local pride as they romped away with the centerpiece NRC 19 trophy using the same clocking over Felix Marinas-Charlie Cruz (1:38.23/Toyota Corolla) and Art Guevarra-Ivan Isada (1:39.05/ Honda City).

Quarties and Desmet's respective times also enabled them to top Group A while the Clubman trophy went to Ramon Santiago (1:46.35/ Toyota Corolla).

Danny Santiago and daughter Melissa grabbed the RP12 plum (1:57.35/Honda City) and Carlo Gutang-Choy Mabuhay claimed the RP 14 honors (1:39.05/Toyota Celica).

The event was organized by Activity Asia Association and sponsored by Petron Corp. and Petron Blaze in cooperation with Honda Cars Phils., the official car; SBMA, DOT, Pagcor, Automobile Association of the Phils., Yokohama Tires and Roadwise Motoring School.

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Fog lamps	standard	—	—
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Arcilla begins PCA Open title defense

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEFENDING champion Johnny Arcilla faces stiff opposition from fellow Davis Cuppers and a host of eager qualifiers when the PCA Open men's singles competition begins today at the Philippine Columbian Association indoor courts.

Arcilla, who bested Adelo Abadia to win the plum last year, will take on Arnel dela Cruz at 1 p.m., kicking off his title-retention campaign in the P400,000 tournament presented by Dunlop and Accel.

Also chasing the title are Abadia, Joseph Victorino and Michael Mora III.

Capable of pulling off surprises are qualifiers Derrick Santos, Garizaldy Caabay, Jandrick de Castro, Menandro Econg, Dindo Almeda, Lourelu Alburo, Antonio Quiza and, Arcilla's younger brother, Joseph.

Alburo outclassed Carlito Rojo, 8-0, while Quiza blasted Ronnie Ogena, 8-4, late Thursday to make the main draw of 64.

Action starts at 9 a.m. in the event sponsored by Chowking, Photokina, PBCom, Coca Cola, San Miguel Corporation, PVL Restaurant-Little Lawrence, Toby's Copacabana, Trans Asian Power and Philippine Star.

Competitions in the junior division begin at 1 p.m. with events for boys and girls 18-under, 16-under, 14-under and 12-under divisions.

There will also be competitions for ladies, seniors, men's and women's doubles and mix doubles.

Men's singles champion will take P80,000, while runner-up gets P40,000. Women's singles champ takes home P30,000, men's doubles winners P18,000 and women's doubles titlists P8,000.

A PLAYER returns the ball in last year's Nestea Beach Volley University Championships.

Beach Volley elims January

THE ELIMINATIONS for the 7th Nestea Beach Volley University Championships unfold January 2003 in Manila.

Three other elimination legs will be held for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, making this year's edition the biggest ever in terms of prizes, scope and participation.

Nestea, the country's biggest name in ice tea refreshment, is inviting all collegiate beach volley teams from all over the country to register for the tournament.

Over a hundred school teams are expected to participate in the tournament.

They will be vying for more than half a million in prizes with P100,000 going to the champions, and another P50,000 worth of sports equipment to be awarded to their alma mater.

Interested parties may call J. Romero Events at 890-6583 or log on to www.nestea.ph.

Indian threatens sweep of women's circuit

INDIA'S Sania Mirza, the first leg champion, threatens to make a sweep after she barged into the semifinals of the Union Cement-ITF Philippines Women's Circuit II with a 6-1, 6-1, victory over Indonesian Diana Julianto yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Sania can go straight to the final today if she beats Malaysian fourth seed Khoo Chin Bee, who bested Wilawan Choptang of Thailand, 6-0, 6-4.

What's scary is that Sania is even nursing an injured elbow since last week. But that didn't stop her from winning the first phase of the $10,000 event.

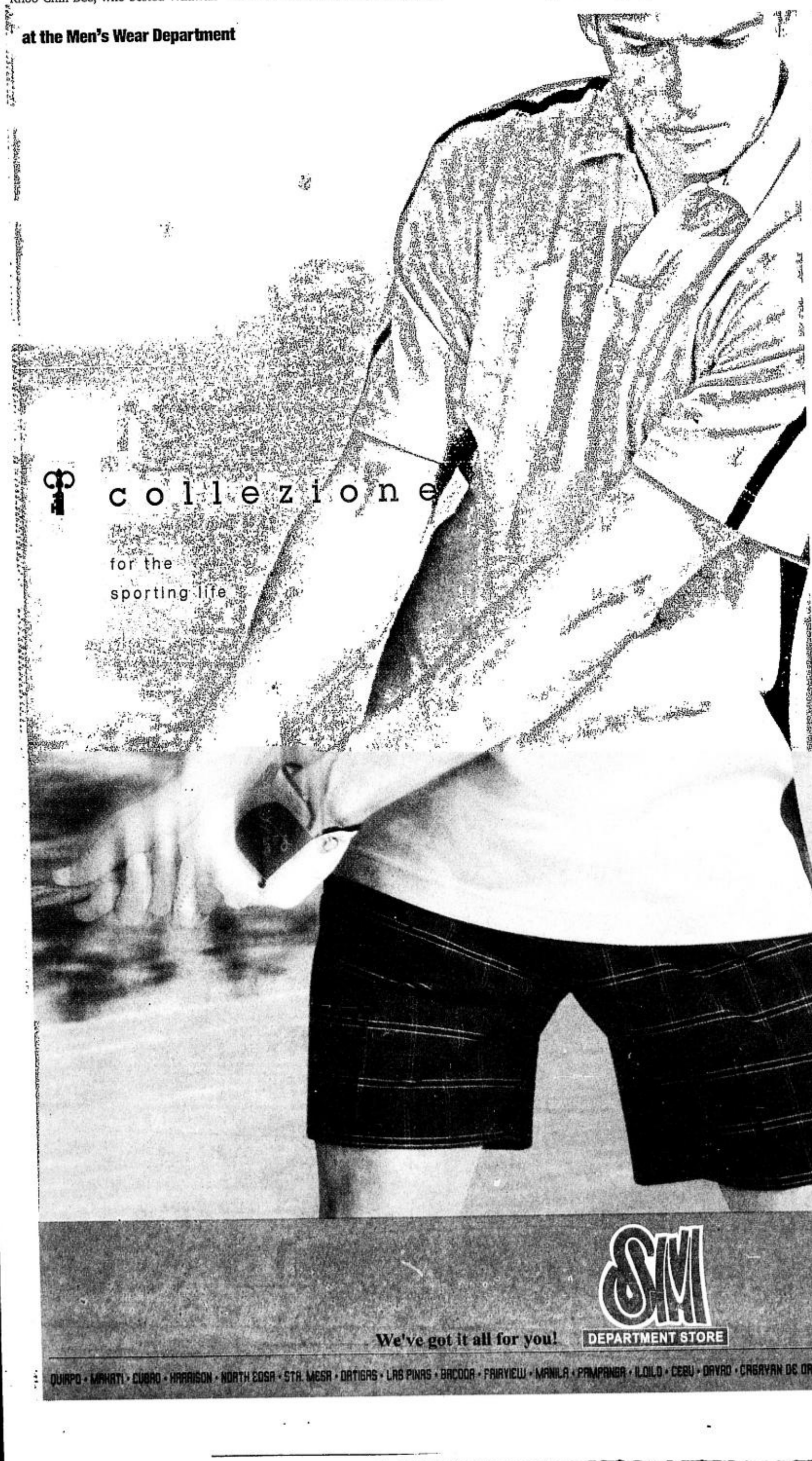
"I think I can play even better than what I did last week," said the 16-year-old Mirza, who has played in the junior competitions of the Wimbledon and the Australian, French and US Opens this year.

But Khoo is no pushover despite losing to Mirza in the semis of the Hyderabad tennis tournament last September (4-6, 6-1, 6-1) for her first pro title.

"She will try to get back at me so I have to be ready," said Mirza, bronze medalist in the recent Busan Asiad mixed doubles with Leander Paes.

Marc Anthony Reyes

at the Men's Wear Department



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Paguyo sizzles in Phuket meet

WHAT she failed to get in the Busan Asian Games, Josephine "Bing" Paguyo obtained in the recent Thailand Open Soft Tennis Invitational Championship 2002.

Paguyo, who was present but was unable to compete in the Asiad due to a procedural mistake of her coach, copped two gold medals in the event held from Nov. 8-11 in Phuket, Thailand.

Paguyo bested Thailand's protegee Naree Sawitre in the individual finals via a 4-3 tiebreak (7-4) in 35 minutes and then teamed up with RP No. 2 Rona Bantay to top the women's doubles at the expense of their Thai counterparts, 5-2.

PAGUYO

TAMAYO

Tropang Pinoy host Tony L. Tamayo, president of the Philippine Soft Tennis Association (PSTA) and the first president of the Southeast Asian Soft Tennis Association (SASTA), said her feat enabled Paguyo to earn the number 1 rank in the women's division.

The men's team composed of Wenifredo "Pitik" De Leon Jr. and Richmond Paguyo snatched the silver medal in the men's double. De Leon together with Bantay bagged the silver medal in the mixed doubles event. Bantay also took a bronze in the women's singles.

The Philippine soft tennis team's stint in Thailand was supported by the Philippine Sports Commission. Francis Huevas, PSTA treasurer, headed the delegation.

Roy Luarca

Breeders Cup today

LOCAL racing's most coveted championships get underway today as the 7th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup Racing Festival, featuring three divisional championships and a slew of special races, is held at the Santa Ana Park.

To be contested in the 14-race card are the championship crowns from the two-year-old filly and 3-year-old colt division, as well as the title of champion sprinter, in the first installment of local racing's richest racefest.

Marho chief Aristeo "Putch" Puyat expressed optimism that the championship parade will get the backing of all the racing sectors, particularly the betting public who are expected to troop to the Santa Ana Park and in all PRCI Off-Track Betting (OTB) stations for this annual racing carnival.

"Racing fans will be treated to top notch horse racing action in one remarkable card of championship and special races," said Puyat.

DON JUAN DERBY
Horse trainer Danilo de la Cruz, representing horse owner Patrick Uy, receives the Klub Don Juan Derby Hopeful trophy from Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino president Sonny Nisce. Joining them are (from left) Pam Sarmiento, Klub Don Juan director Jun Almeda and Fort Ilocandia's Arlene de Guzman and Jose Mamuric.

RACING TIPS

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Race 3–1. Princess Jonalyn 2. My Lady Ann
Race 4–1. Siete De Marso/Real Tough 2. West Bound 3. Reporter
Race 5–1. Shower of Stars 2. Rapid Strike 3. Heading West
Race 6–1. Tatler Cover 2. Noor
Race 7–1. Salamat 2. Highly Connected 3. Great Year
Race 8–1. Free Wind 2. Senor Raggaas
Race 9–1. Something Silver 2. Party Princess 3. Silver Music
Race 10–1. Golden Disc 2. Magical Surf 3. Diabolo Don
Race 11–1. Fast Eddie/Sacred Hall 2. Be Quiet
Race 12–1. Kayang Kaya 2. The Fox 3. Burning Light
Race 13–1. Winning Prize 2. Golden Tale 3. Manila Miss
Race 14–1. Matutina 2. Front Page 3. Race For Gold

SportsTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Masters Cup (Shanghai), 7:30 a.m. (r), 9:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Star Sports

BASKETBALL: NBA, 9 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), ESPN, Sacramento vs Seattle, 11 a.m., Solar Sports

Harlem Globetrotters vs Maryland, 2 p.m., ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff, 6:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Lee Tucker vs Jimmy White, 4 p.m. (r), ESPN

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GAME TODAY
(Lamberto Macias Sports Center, Dumaguete City)
5:30 p.m.–Alaska vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—Talk N Text neutralized Batang Red Bull's formidable inside game as it carved out an emphatic 77-67 win last night in the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Ynares Center here.

While limiting the Thunder inside the paint, Asi Taulava and Alex Crisano lorded it over in the middle as the Phone Pals earned the distinction of smearing the Thunder's blotless record.

Their four-game winning snapped, the Thunder now share the leadership with Coca-Cola at 4-1 while missing an automatic playoff berth going into the next round. The Phone Pals improved to 3-2 that tied them with Governor's Cup titlist Purefoods at second place.

"It's human nature. When you're stringing up several victories, there's always a possibility that you'll break the streak. It just so happened that we caught them at that instance," said Talk N Text coach Paul Woolpert.

Rookies Chris Calaguio and Edwin Bacani led Shell to a 71-65 victory over Barangay Ginebra in the second game. The Turbochargers tied the Kings and the Alaska Aces at 2-3.

Chester Tolomia scored a career-high 19 points for the Kings.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 77–Alvarez 17, Crisano 16, Taulava 14, Pablo 12, Fran 5, Camaso 4, Gonzales 4, Evans 3, Demape 2, Belano 0, Tangkay 0.

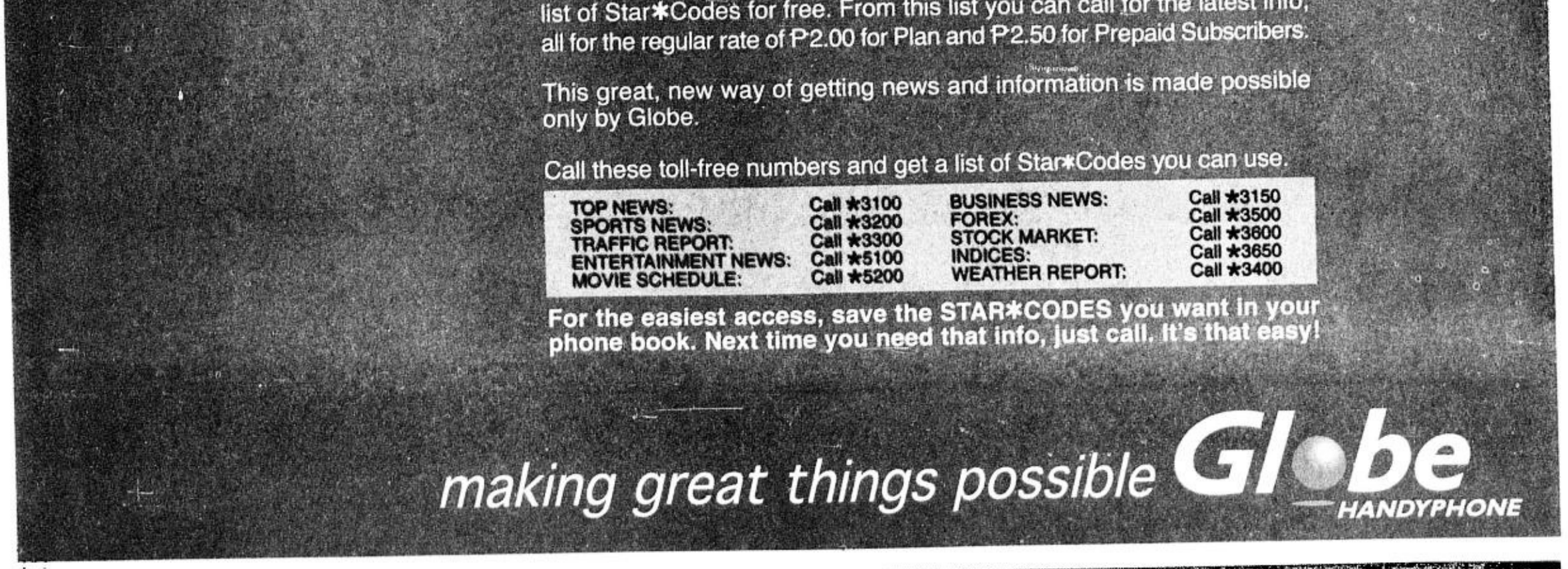
RED BULL 67–Miller 17, Tugade 12, Harp 10, Se 6, Hizon 6, Valenzuela 4, Pennisi 4, Mendoza 3, Asaytono 3, Villoria 2, Locsin 0.

Quarters: 14-21, 40-47, 60-57, 77-67.

Football Cup kicks off today

THE 7TH Alaska Football Cup kicks off today with a new kids team in tow at the Ayala Alabang Country Club.

Real Urdaneta FC, a merger co-handled by coaches Alvin Ocampo and Jojo Durian, will showcase the talents of Jayme Duncan, Galo and Santiago from the Urdaneta Dinosaurs and JR Dy, Jeremy and Xavi of the Alabang Knights FC.



E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

QUIZON detained at the CPD. DENNIS SABANGAN

44 bagged on first curfew night /A26

Rollie Quizon nabbed in shabu session /A26

'Sex boats' banned from Manila Bay - Atienza /A28

Squatters seek Christmas moratorium on demolition /A31

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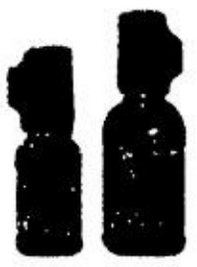

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44 bagged on first curfew night

By Jerome Aning

THE FIRST night of the curfew for minors in Manila was "generally peaceful with no untoward incidents recorded," according to Mayor Lito Atienza.

Dr. Jose Baranda, head of the city's social welfare department, and Manila Barangay Bureau Director Norberto Enriquez reported that 44 minors were caught violating the curfew Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Malate and Pandacan.

The Western Police District recorded a lower figure of 42 apprehensions for first-time violators.

Members of the WPD Station 4 in Sampaloc said they apprehended 17 minors while members of Station 6 in Sta. Ana caught 15 offenders.

Station 3 in the Sta. Cruz-Quiapo area and Station 9 in Malate arrested five violators each.

"Considering the number of residents below 18, the number of minors arrested on the first night can be considered negligible," Atienza told reporters yesterday.

He said the few apprehensions could also mean that most minors and their parents heeded the curfew.

The mayor said he received "very positive feedback" from residents, particularly parents, regarding the implementation of the curfew.

"Most notable was the absence of kids who used to litter the streets during late evening," he said. "I believe that the consensus among residents is that the curfew is really beneficial."

The mayor, together with Baranda, Enriquez and their staff, went around the city from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. to monitor the implementation of the curfew.

As early as 9:30 p.m., barangay watchmen had started to make rounds in their barangays to remind youths and parents of the curfew.

Other barangays used bells and bullhorns to signal the beginning of the curfew.

The mayor reminded residents that the curfew also applies on weekends and holidays.

Minors caught violating the curfew may be held by barangay authorities for a maximum of three hours.

First-time offenders will be reprimanded. Second-time offenders will be reprimanded, together with their parents, and reminded that they can be charged in court for the next offense.

Children 15 years old and below, however, may not be charged, according to the law.

For third and subsequent offenses, a barangay council resolution is needed to bring the violator before the court.

Third-time offenders, if found guilty, will be jailed for one to 10 days or fined P2,000.

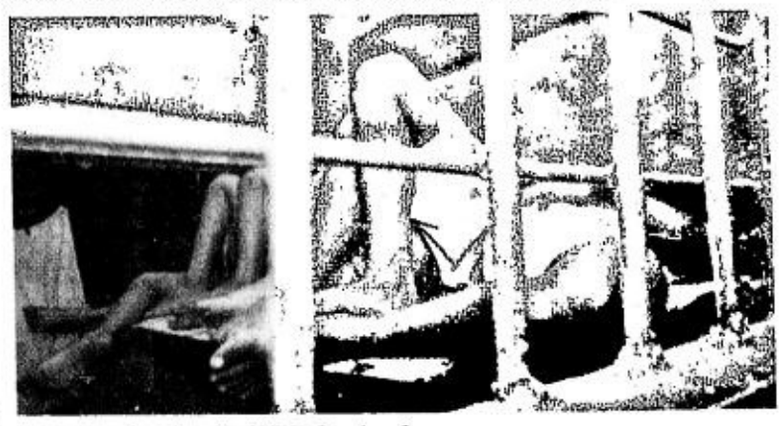
Children accompanied by elders or those who are on errands such as to buy medicines or make emergency phone calls are exempted from the curfew.

Youths may also be issued certificates by their barangay chiefs exempting them from the curfew if they go to school or work at night.

The ordinance creates barangay curfew advisory boards to determine and mete out sanctions to first- and second-time offenders and recommend the filing of a case against third-time offenders.

The board is composed of the barangay chair and watchmen. The barangay secretary will record the identities of the offenders, their age, address, birthday, and the time and place of apprehension.

The mayor may suspend the implementation of the curfew for a specific period if required by public interest, according to the ordinance.



MINORS detained in WPD Station 9.

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Rollie Quizon nabbed in shabu session

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON CITY police on Thursday arrested a son of comedy king Dolphy along with two other men allegedly while taking shabu.

Members of the Central Police District Baler police station arrested Rolly Quizon (real name, Paul Dominguez Quizon), 44, a production assistant and a resident of Project 6; Bernie Nabong, 50, of Project 8; and Jun Lagman, 25, of Bago Bantay, at about 4 p.m. in Lagman's residence.

All three suspects are Quezon City residents.

According to a report submitted to CPD Director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, SPO4s Dante Yang and Rudy Quilban were in Bago Bantay talking to a friend when a woman complained to them that she had just been mauled by her husband.

The woman also tipped off the two policemen about a shabu session in Lagman's house. The woman said the session included her own husband, identified only as Ado.

The policemen went to Lagman's house and caught the three men allegedly in the act of taking shabu.

The policemen said they recovered from the suspects three plastic sachets of suspected shabu and other paraphernalia.

Quizon told police that he was only there to visit a friend.

Quizon and the two other suspects will be subjected to a drug test in preparation for the filing of charges against them for violation of drug laws, according to the Quezon City police.

All three suspects are presently detained at the headquarters of the CPD Drug Enforcement Unit.

Quirino's 112th birthday marked

THE COUNTRY today marks the 112th birthday of the late President Elpidio Quirino.

One of four Ilocanos who became president of the Philippines, Quirino spent the early years of his life in Aringay, La Union. He attended three high schools after graduating from the Aringay Elementary School and eventually graduated in a school run by Americans in Manila.

After finishing Law at the University of the Philippines and passing the bar, he became a law clerk in the Senate and served as President Manuel L. Quezon's political aide for many years. He was elected congressman in 1919 and became senator in 1925, 1933 and 1945.

During the Japanese occupation, he became leader of the underground. He was captured and imprisoned, and his wife and three of his five children were killed by the Japanese.

In 1945, he became Senate pro tempore and was elected first vice president of the independent Philippine republic in 1946. He was a Cabinet member for two years.

When President Manuel Roxas died in 1948, Quirino automatically succeeded him. He was elected President the next year.

Among Quirino's major moves were the proclamation of amnesty for the members of the Hukbalahap (Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon), the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the establishment of a new land reform agency called Social Amelioration Commission, the opposition of the presence of US Bases and the reorganization of the government through the Reorganization Commission of 1950. He also succeeded in preventing the United States from claiming the South Harbor as their own.

He had said: "While I recognize the United States as a great builder in this country, I have never surrendered the sovereignty, much less the dignity and future of our country."

Quirino died on Feb. 28, 1956. *Margaux Ortiz*

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Nangako si Mister, di na babalik sa pagpupulis.
Nangako si Misis, iiwas na sa chismis.
Pero ang pangako ay napapako, at dito iikot ang kaliwa't kanan na pagkasangkot sa gulo!
Starring
MARICEL SORIANO • CESAR MONTANO
With
SMOKEY MANALOTO • EARL IGNACIO • SHAINA MAGDAYAO
ALWYN UYTINGCO • BEARWIN MEILY • DYORDS JAVIER
GLORIA SEVILLA • HYUBS AZARCON
Directed by JOHNNY MANAHAN
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Atienza: Get those sex boats out of Manila Bay

By Jerome Aning

MANILA mayor Lito Atienza has banned all non-fishing outriggers (banca) and small "leisure boats" from Manila Bay after he learned that they are being used to ferry prostitutes from shore to "service" the crewmen on ships.

Atienza on Wednesday also directed the city police to round up the flesh peddlers, euphemistically referred to in Filipino as "alupihang dagat," and their pimps.

The prostitutes often loiter or camp along the Roxas Boulevard seawall in Malate and Ermita, the mayor said.

He said the pimps make the rounds of ships moored far from the shore or docked in the harbor to get "customers."

The customers are often foreign mariners and crew who are not allowed to get off ship.

Atienza said he was surprised to see makeshift tents by the seawall while he was having a late afternoon stroll a few days ago.

The mayor said he peeked in one tent and saw a pretty young woman, who wore makeup and was dressed "provocatively."

When asked what she was doing there, the equally surprised woman sheepishly said she would be spending the night on shore because she concluded a business transaction late.

The mayor said he angrily shooed the woman and told her to go home immediately.

On another day, Atienza recounted, he and his staff followed a banca that was heading toward a ship of foreign registry in the middle of the bay.

Using binoculars, he said they saw the banca was full of women. The boat circled the ship, he said, and when it returned to shore, there were no passengers.

Atienza said he initially wanted to inform the Philippine Coast Guard about the banca, but he noted that the banca first approached a PCG patrol boat before heading out to the ship.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
Paulino Dyrastas holds up the tools he used to pry off the car stereo being held by SP04 Abraham Macalagay of the Western Police District. Police said Dyrastas was caught stealing the stereo system from a parked car along Antenor Street in Pandacan, Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

24-hour water cutoff in Valenzuela, Bulacan

WATER service to all of Valenzuela and to the Obando and Meycauayan water districts will be temporarily stopped starting at 9 tonight, to 9 p.m. tomorrow, Nov. 17.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. said the 24-hour water service interruption will allow the installation of an additional gearbox at the existing actuator on Maysan Road, the investigation of a 900mm mainline also at Maysan and the interconnection of the newly installed and raised section of the 450mm mainline crossing the Tullahan River in Valenzuela.

Maynilad undertook the elevation of the mainline crossing the Tullahan River in response to the request of Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo. The raised section will allow the passage of small seacraft under the Tullahan bridge.

The installation of the additional gearbox and the investigation at Maysan are expected to improve the water supply, especially in the elevated areas of Valenzuela.

The affected areas are: the whole of Valenzuela and the areas being served by the Meycauayan and Obando Water Districts.

Affected residents are advised to store water good for 24 hours.

They may also call Maynilad Hotline 1626 for the water rationing schedule and water deliveries.

It's life behind bars for woman drug peddler

By Tina Santos

A CALOOCAN city court has sentenced in absentia a Chinese-Filipino woman to life imprisonment and ordered her to pay a fine of P1 million after she was found guilty of drug pushing.

Judge Myrna Dimaranan Vidal of the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court sentenced Noraida Lao Mendez to a maximum of 14 years and eight months imprisonment.

In an 11-page decision, Judge Vidal said a warrant of arrest has already been issued against the woman who remains at large.

According to court records, Caloocan City policemen seized some .86 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, or shabu, from the accused during a buy-bust operation on July 4.

An informer reportedly told members of the Caloocan City police's Drug Enforcement Unit that Mendez openly sold shabu in Sta. Quiteria Baesa, Caloocan.

DEU chief Senior Insp. Ramirez Valencia then ordered his men to go after Mendez.

The accused was arrested as soon as she handed over to undercover policeman PO3 Ramon Galvez plastic sachets containing .18 grams of shabu, in exchanged for P500 in marked cash.

PO3 Rizalino Rangel also confiscated four more sachets containing .68 grams of shabu.

In upholding the prosecution's case against the accused, the court said that the two undercover policemen who participated in the operation testified in a "candid and forthright manner, which are earmarks of trustworthy witnesses."

The court added that the defense could have presented its evidence to controvert the prosecution's evidence, but had failed to do so since the accused appeared to have jumped bail and had already gone into hiding.

Araneta firm denounces auction of properties

By Tina Santos

A FIRM owned by businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta yesterday denounced the Caloocan City government for including the company as among the city's delinquent taxpayers and auctioning off its properties.

Rene Faustino, chief operating officer of Carmel Development Inc. cited the writ of preliminary injunction by Judge Modesro Juanson of the Regional Trial Court Branch 125 ordering city Mayor Rey Malonzo and the city treasurer Lourdes Jose from proceeding with the auction sale.

Araneta's 54-hectare property located in Makatipo, Caloocan, were among the pieces of real property that were included in the auction held at the Bulwagang Katipunan in City Hall last Oct. 22.

CDI reportedly owes the city government some P29,649,839.

The court noted that the city government never issued any assessment or notice of delinquency of real estate tax from 1988 to May 2002.

It added that the CDI has the right to be appraised of the tax assessment before tax is collected from it.

The basis of the tax assessment is a real estate tax declaration, which the city had also refused to issue from 1988 to May 2002.

The court ruled that the city government violated all the requirements constituting denial of due process of law. It added that the warrant of levy, notice of publication and auction sale planned by the city government against CDI is "discriminatory, oppressive, unreasonable."

"The city government has violated the cardinal rule of taxation of notice of assessment as conditions sine qua non before taxes should be collected," Faustino said.

PWU family day

THE PHILIPPINE Women's University - Jose Abad Santos Memorial School (JASMS will hold its ninth annual family day and tiangge on Dec. 5 and 6 at its Edsa, Quezon City campus.

"Ipagdiwang ang Pagkakaisa ng Pamilya at Edukasyon" is this year's theme for the celebration.

The two-day festivity will provide an opportunity for the school's personnel and staff members to get together with the families and students of PWU.

Electrocuted in QC

By Alcuin Papa

A CONSTRUCTION worker died of electrocution at a construction site in Quezon City Thursday, police said.

The victim was identified as Lorenzon Tacani, 40, of Minuyan Quarry, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

He was declared dead at the Sioson Hospital, police said.

PO2 Joseph Madrid, of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit, said Tacani died at around 1 p.m. at a construction site on Payan Street, Veterans Village.

PO2 Madrid said Tacani was carrying lumber which was supposed to be used as scaffolding.

While the victim was standing on a makeshift ladder, a high-tension wire came into contact with the Tacani, which caused him to fall to the ground.

Tacani's co-workers immediately took the victim to the hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, police said.

Woman, 3 others rob passenger jeepney in Manila

By Philip Tubeza

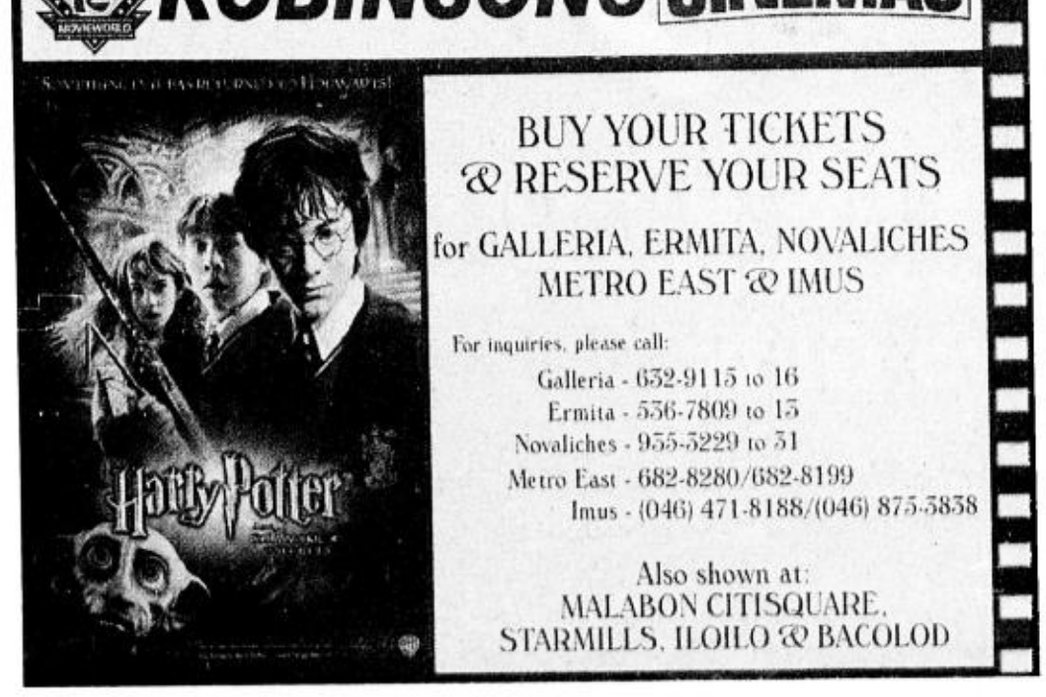
THE NUMBER of petty crimes in Manila has increased, and the criminals have become more daring in breaking the law.

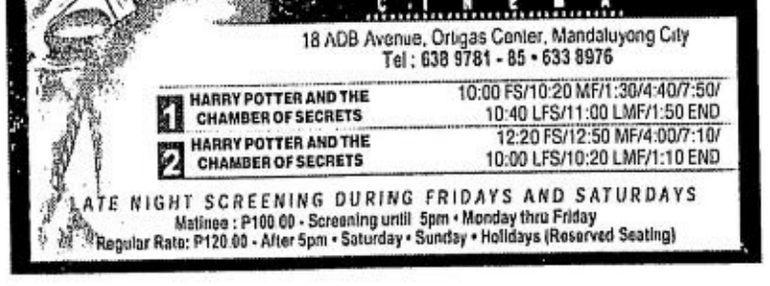
Four robbers, one of whom is a woman, on Wednesday robbed passengers of a jeepney in front of the National Bureau of Investigation headquarters in Manila, police said.

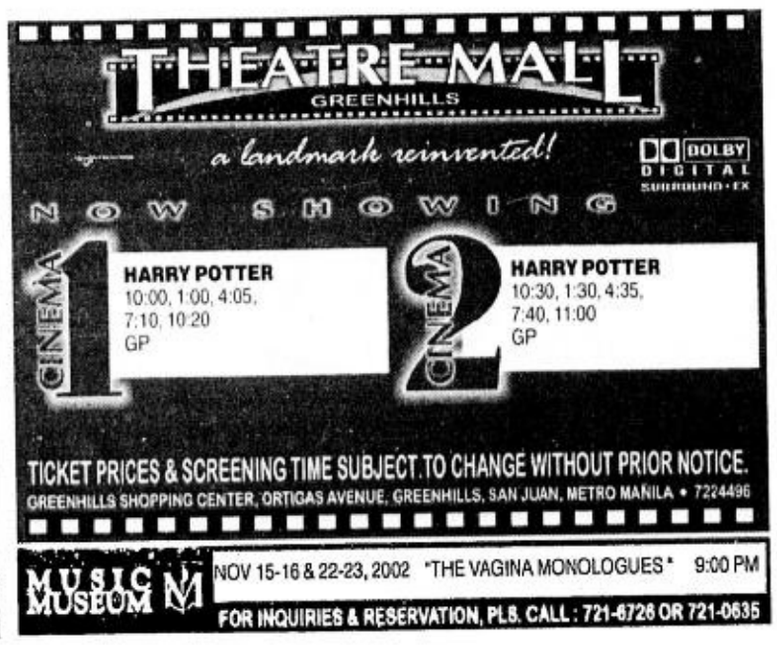
Police identified the victims as Catherine Agaacoda, 26, of Parañaque City; Justine Sison, 22, of Makati; Grace Bensalida, 18, also of Makati; and Angeline Ortiz, 18, of Pasay City.

The suspects who were armed with knives took the victims' jewelry, cellular phones and cash, police said.

The jeepney was bound for Baclaran at 10:30 when the suspects pulled out their knives and announced the hold-up as the vehicle passed the corner of UN and Taft Avenue. The suspects then divested the passengers of their valuables and alighted from the jeepney after it passed the NBI headquarters, police said.







Uncouth lawyers

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SENATE President Franklin Drilon's call on all Cabinet members to submit their courtesy resignations will surely fall on deaf ears.

Drilon's resignation call is meant to weed out the corrupt and incompetent Cabinet secretaries with little effort from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Some quarters suggest asking members of the President's official family who are corrupt or inept to resign.

* * *

But who in his right mind would admit to being corrupt or incompetent?

As Sen. Joker Arroyo put it: "Nobody would file (his resignation). Nobody would admit to being incompetent."

* * *

Therefore, the only way is for the President to ask—or order—all her Cabinet officials to submit their courtesy resignations.

The President can then ask those who are honest and competent to remain in office, and give her "thank you" letters to Cabinet members who are undesirable.

* * *

Listen to former first lady Imelda Marcos' speech before an Ilocano crowd recently:

"You may be forsaken, abandoned by loyalists, friends and even relations, but just remember there is God. There is god in everyone. The only democracy in this world is God."

It's only now that people can afford to laugh at Imelda and her idiotic antics. Back in the days when the Marcoses were in power, the intimidated citizenry applauded Imelda's inane speeches, including that one about a hole in the sky through which God supposedly showered His blessings to the Filipino people.

* * *

If you think that just because lawyers are highly educated, all of them behave properly in public gatherings, think again.

Some of them are uncouth, their ill-breeding sometimes shows in the most unlikely places.

Government witness Mary Ong, a.k.a. Rosebud, became a victim of the ungentlemanly acts of some "honorable" members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) when she spoke before a Mindanao lawyers' convention in Cagayan de Oro City recently.

* * *

Ong was invited by the Cagayan de Oro-IBP to talk about the unholy alliance between some law enforcers and drug syndicates, based on her own experience.

As Ong started her scheduled 15-minute speech, a Davao City lawyer, Bernardo Cataluna, approached the microphone and shouted at her: "Sit down or get out! You better sit down or get out. Ping Lacson is not here to defend himself, so you are not allowed to speak. You have no right to be here, more so to speak here! You are not a lawyer."

Another lawyer from Davao City, Butch delos Reyes, got hold of the mike and said angrily: "I traveled eight hours from Davao to Cagayan de Oro. I paid P2,000 for the convention fees, and I did not come here to listen to Ms Rosebud." Delos Reyes was the campaign manager of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in Davao in the last elections.

* * *

The convention moderator, a identified as a certain Atty. Kho, told Delos Reyes to sit down. "Please sit down. You may raise your questions to Rosebud later in the open forum."

This reportedly angered Delos Reyes all the more and he shot back at Kho: "If you interrupt me, I will hit you!"

To prevent the angry exchange of words from degenerating into a fistfight, the proverbial cooler heads intervened. Delos Reyes and Cataluna were using spoons and forks to create noise and were banging the table.

* * *

A Cagayan de Oro judge reportedly approached Cataluna and Delos Reyes to advise them to keep quiet so the proceedings would continue. One of the unruly lawyers reportedly told the judge: *"Pu_mo, huwag kang makialam dito!"*

Then the convention went into an uproar, with lawyers shouting at one another.

Manuel Ravanera, president of the IBP Cagayan de Oro chapter, told the participants it was he who personally invited Rosebud.

* * *

Ravanera then asked the convention to put to a vote the issue on whether Rosebud should be allowed to continue with her speech.

Most women lawyers stood up and clapped their hands, shouting: "We want Rosebud."

There was an overwhelming response from the other convention delegates.

Only seven out of the 1,200 participants walked out.

Man tries to blast Edsa gas station

By Tina Santos

A 41-YEAR-OLD jobless man was arrested Thursday night when he tried to blow up a gasoline station in Caloocan City.

Fortunately, Shell station employee Ruel Montes, 28, and alert security guards of nearby establishments saw the suspicious-looking Juanito Flores and managed to stop him, police said.

Caloocan Police intelligence and investigation division chief Supt. Dionisio Borromeo said his men immediately went to the crime scene and arrested the suspect before he could blow up the gasoline station on Edsa, near the Bonifacio Monument Circle.

Montes told police that he noticed Flores, of Concepcion Street, Morning Breeze, Caloocan City, wandering about the gas station and came up to one of their dispensing machines.

He then saw the suspect grab a nozzle, took out a disposable lighter from his pocket and tried to light up the highly volatile hose.

Police said dozens of lives could have been lost had it not for the timely intervention of Montes and the station's security guards.

Montes wrestled with Flores and managed to snatch the nozzle away from the suspect, Borromeo said.

At police headquarters, the suspect appeared remorseful as he admitted to the crime.

Flores told the police that he did not mean to blow up the gas station.

At least 50 metric tons of gasoline and diesel fuel are stored in the station's fuel container.

Police said had Flores succeeded in lighting up the nozzle, the resulting explosion would have destroyed adjacent buildings, killing innocent commuters on the busy highway.

Police will be filing attempted arson charges against the suspect.

Savings and loans industry may collapse, group warns

A GROUP of non-stock savings and loan associations (NSSLAs) has warned that the savings and loan industry may collapse if a provision in the 2003 General Appropriations Act is not removed.

Leandro Bacud, president of the umbrella group Confederation of Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations (CONSLA), said billions of pesos in capital contributions and amortization of an estimated 1.5 million NSSLA members cannot be collected because of the re-insertion of Section 36 in the 2003 GAA.

Section 36, Bacud said, prohibits automatic payroll deductions for the repayment of their members' salary loans and provides a P3,000 minimum net take home pay for government workers.

"This section essentially violates Republic Act 8367, which provided for the creation and regulation of non-stock savings and loan associations in private and government sectors," Bacud said. "RA 8367 not only empowers NSSLAs to accept deposits and grant loans to our members, but also obligates government agencies to automatically deduct loan payments from the salaries of our members."

Section 36 was re-inserted in the 2003 GAA by Rep. Jesli Lapus of Tarlac, despite strong opposition from non-stock SLAs.

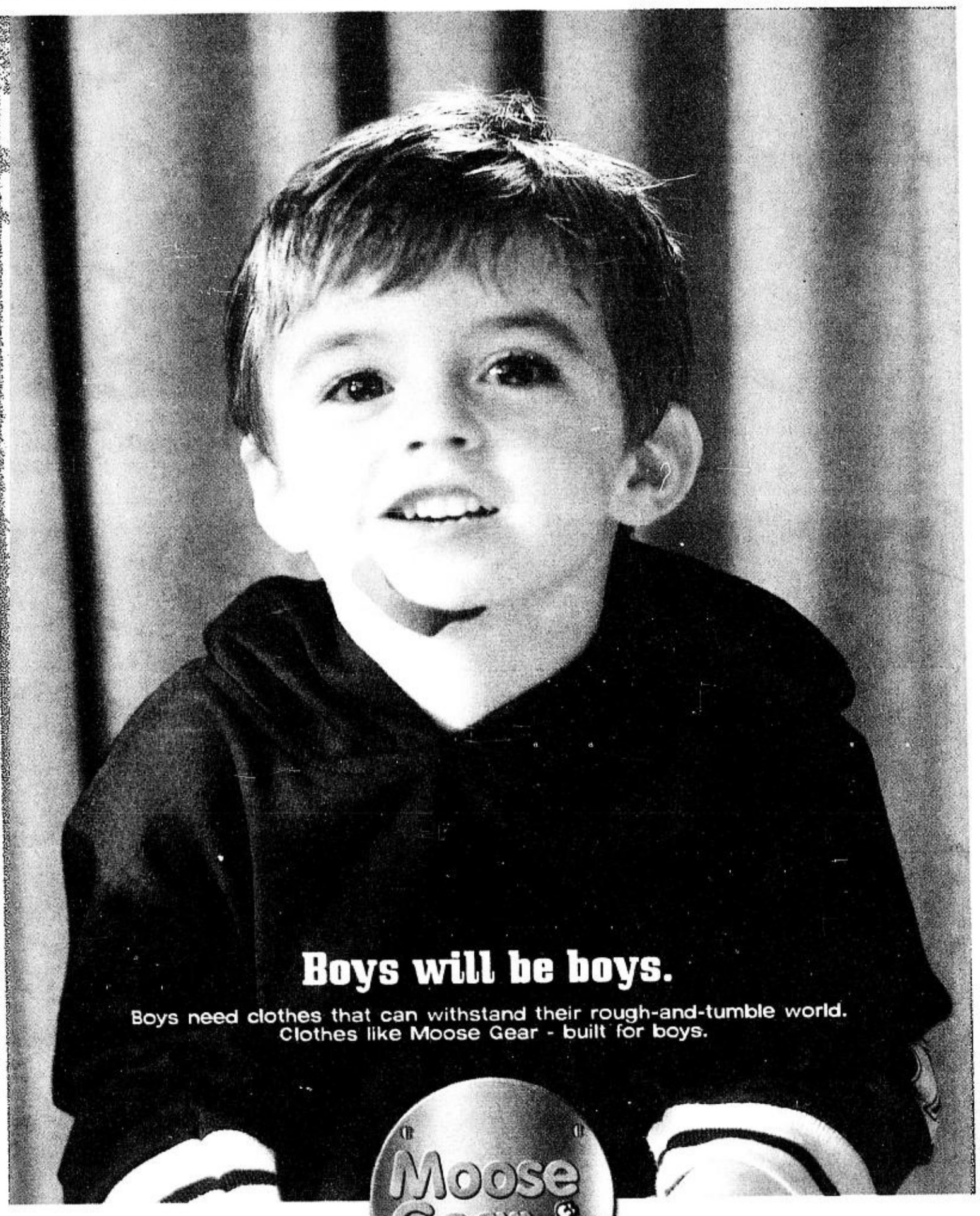
"(Section 36) is choking the life out of NSSLAs that service the needs of government employees and their beneficiaries," Bacud said. "Billions of pesos of our members' hard-earned money are stranded in loans. If we cannot collect, our 1.5 million members won't be able to use their money which they now need in the face of our country's economic difficulties."

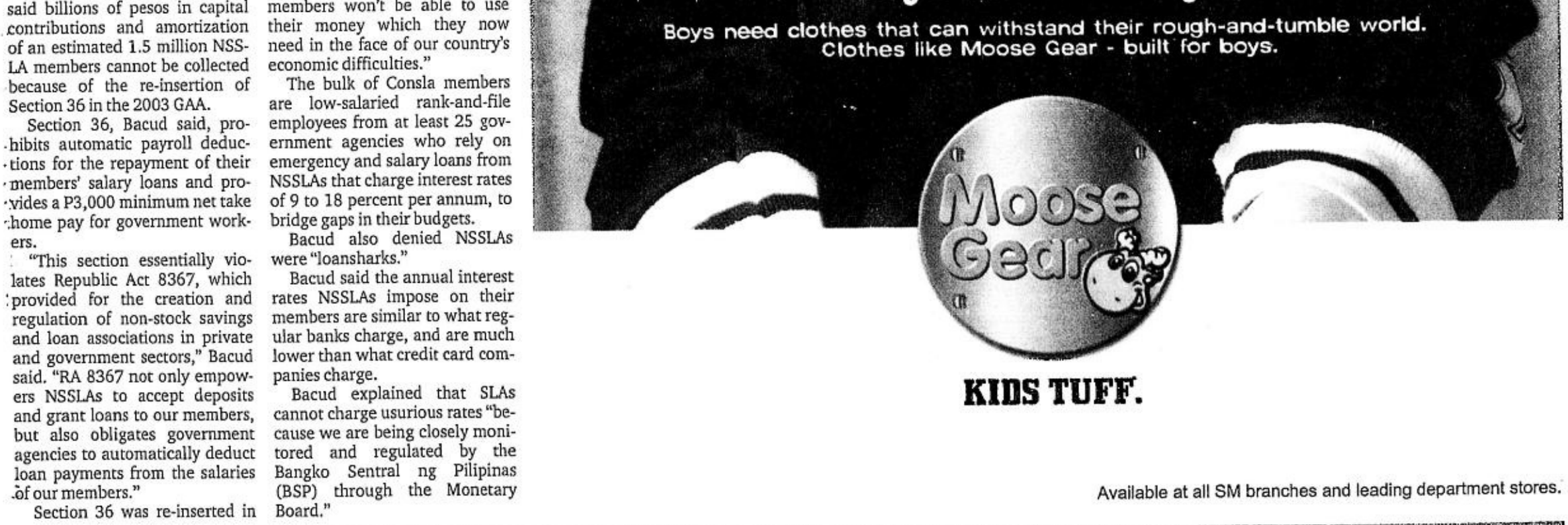
The bulk of Consla members are low-salaried rank-and-file employees from at least 25 government agencies who rely on emergency and salary loans from NSSLAs that charge interest rates of 9 to 18 percent per annum, to bridge gaps in their budgets.

Bacud also denied NSSLAs were "loansharks."

Bacud said the annual interest rates NSSLAs impose on their members are similar to what regular banks charge, and are much lower than what credit card companies charge.

Bacud explained that SLAs cannot charge usurious rates "because we are being closely monitored and regulated by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) through the Monetary Board."





Kin could have kidnapped boy, cops say

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE ABDUCTION of a Japanese-Filipino boy in Muntinlupa last week could have been the handiwork of the boy's relatives, police said yesterday.

The authorities are now zeroing in on that possibility and they have invited for questioning the relatives of Christopher Berog, 13, who was kidnapped by five armed men inside his house in Sto. Niño, Barangay Tunasan last Saturday.

"This is very, very deep," said Senior Supt. Erasto Lim Sanchez, city police chief. "At this point, we're focusing on the angle that the boy's own relatives had ordered his kidnapping."

Sanchez did not elaborate on why the relatives would want the boy kidnapped.

Berog's Japanese father and Filipino mother are staying in Japan, the police chief told the INQUIRER yesterday.

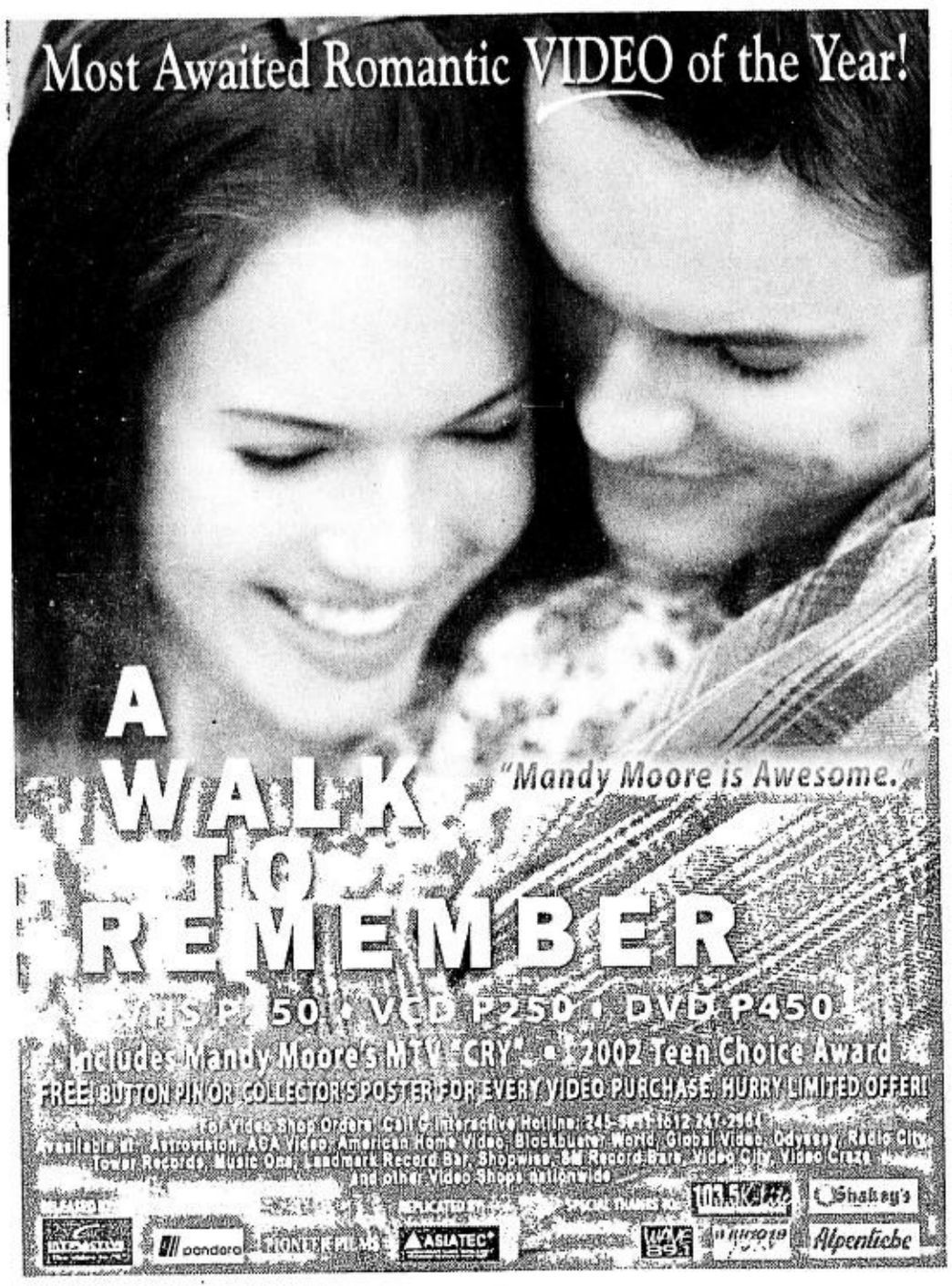
Suspects Filemon Flora, Ramon Doratan, Jesus Amorante, and two other men barged into the boy's house and snatched the victim at around 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

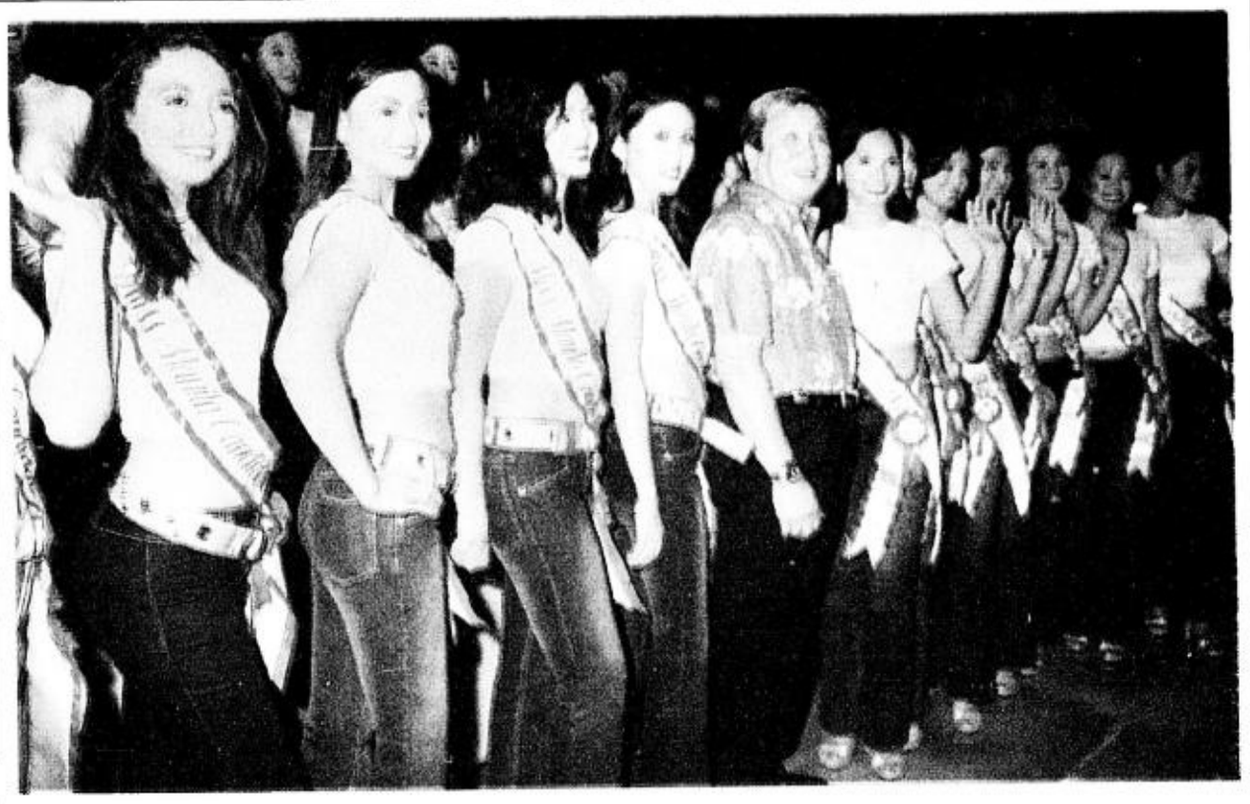
But the suspects left behind a clutch bag, which police used to lure them back to Sto. Niño where they were arrested some four hours later.

The clutch bag supposedly contained a two-way radio, a copy of the kidnap plan, and other documents.

Flora, Doratan, and Amorante are detained at the Muntinlupa city jail.

They are facing charges of kidnapping with serious illegal detention before the city prosecutor's office.





BELLES OF CITY HALL
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza flashes his pearly whites as he poses with the candidates of the Miss Manila 2002 in City Hall. Pageant night is on Nov. 29 at the Liwasang Bonfacio in Manila.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

Rapist foiled by cockroach

By Tina Santos

A COCKROACH saved a 17-year-old woman from being raped in Caloocan City Wednesday night.

The woman's parents said their daughter was about to be sexually molested by their neighbor when the insect—deeply reviled by most people—announced its presence.

Officer-on-case SPO4 Marilou Rheberg said the incident took place inside the victim's house in Bagong Silang, at around 11 p.m. on Wednesday. She said the the victim's parents reported the incident the following day.

The parents told police that the victim was sleeping in her own room when she was awakened by the insect which was crawling up her leg.

When she tried to get at the cockroach, she got the shock of her life when she saw the suspect Lando Cario in front of her and without his pants.

SPO4 Rheberg said the victim began screaming when she saw the suspect, immediately alerting her parents.

By the time her parents got to their daughter's room, the suspect had escaped, Rheberg said.

The victim later discovered that her shorts had been pulled down to her knees.

"We cannot help but thank this creature which delivered our only daughter from the the hands of that rapist," her parents were quoted as saying.

Policemen said they will file acts of lasciviousness against the suspect who is still at large.

Anthony needs help

By Margaux Ortiz

ANTHONY Regencia had every reason to look forward to a full and happy life ahead of him.

At the age of 22, he was already working as part of a volunteer staff (computer technician) at the House of Representatives to help his parents finance his education.

He wanted to finish school and eventually serve in government.

But his dreams were cut short when he was diagnosed with a chronic kidney disease this year.

"He was confined at the FEU Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation for almost three weeks," Anthony's mother Jolour said. "The specialists advised that he should undergo continuous dialysis for as long as he lives."

Mrs. Regencia added there was an alternative.

"We could also choose a long-term solution—a kidney transplant," she said.

Mrs. Regencia explained that between the two options, the kidney transplant is the more practical alternative.

A session of dialysis costs P3,000 and Anthony needs to go through the procedure twice a week.

But according to the 52-year-old mother, operations like kidney transplants do not come at a cheap.

The transplant alone will cost the family P130,000, while she estimated the post-operation medication to reach P942 a day for 4 months.

"The doctor stressed that our son should not miss a day of his 4-month medication," she said. "Otherwise his body will reject his new kidney."

The family felt newfound hope last week when Anthony's 24-year-old brother, Paul, passed the cross matching and tissue-typing test to become a potential kidney donor.

The doctors advised them that it would be better for Anthony to undergo the transplant within a month because the results of the test may lapse.

Mrs. Regencia is now appealing to kind-hearted readers to help them defray their expenses for Anthony's operation and medication.

"It's difficult seeing your son suffer," said Mrs. Regencia, her voice wavering.

"During the recent holiday, Anthony was unable to undergo dialysis because we were so cash-strapped. By the time we were able to bring him to the doctor, his face was already puffed up and he was in a lot of pain.

"I just pray that Anthony will live long enough to realize his dreams. This is a mother's simple wish for her son."

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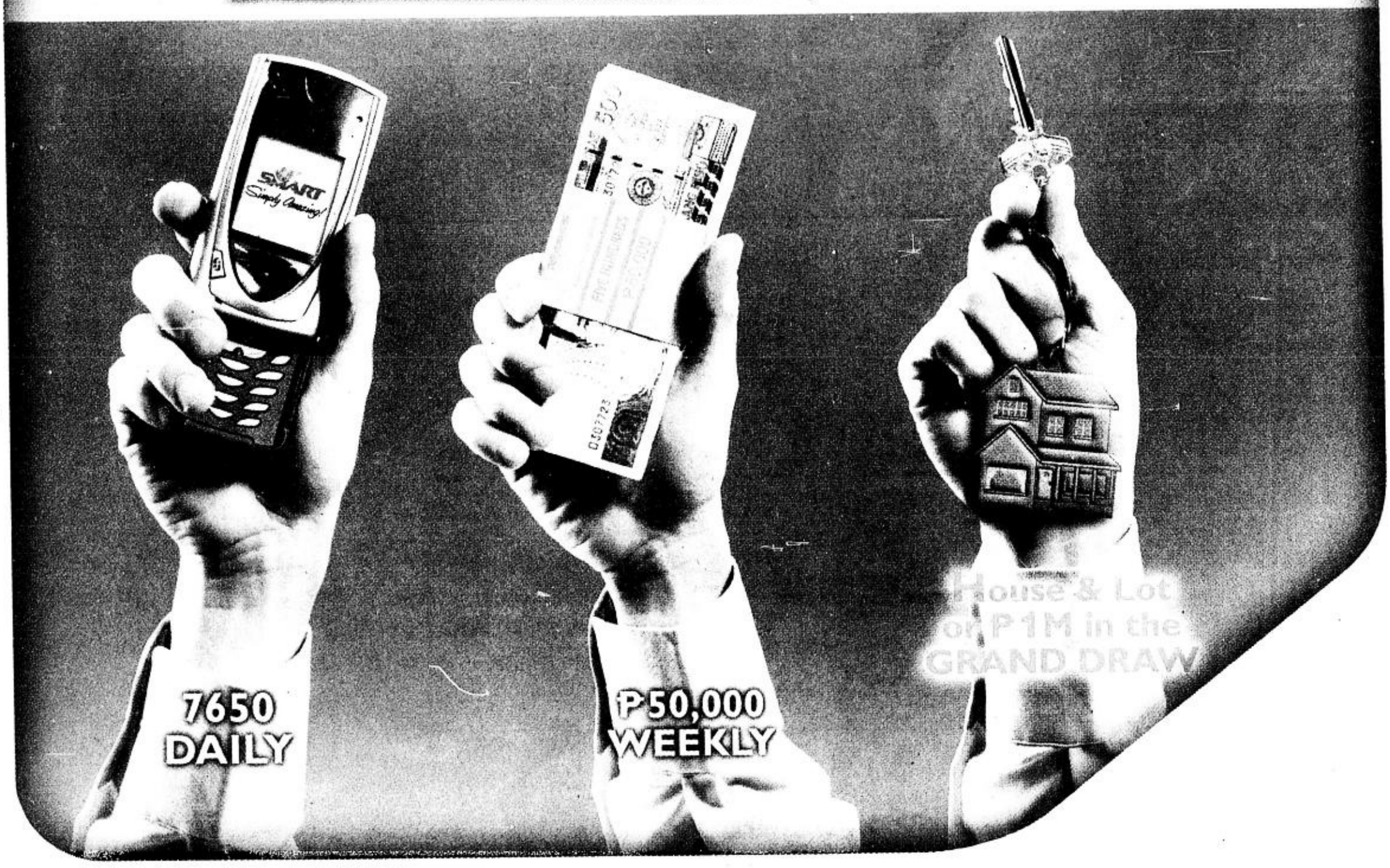

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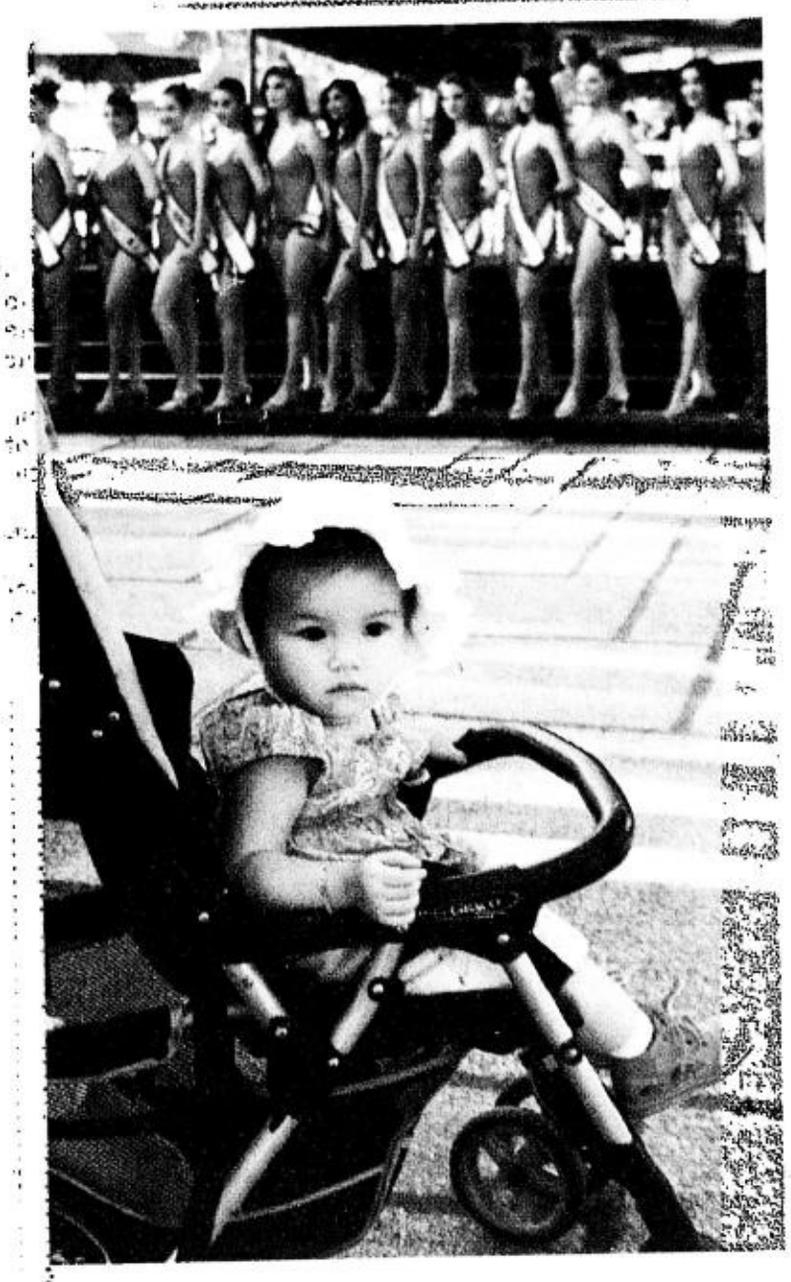


EYE-CATCHER
She may not be sexy and 17, but this young beauty catches the eye of INQUIRER photographer Ernie Sarmiento who favors her momentarily over the contestants to the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2002.

Madrigal heirs accuse Munti government of land grabbing

By Christian V. Esguerra

PEOPLE claiming to be heirs of the Madrigal clan have charged the Muntinlupa government of grabbing from them at least two pieces of property.

In a 14-page complaint, the petitioners, led by a certain Celso Satuito, asked the court to stop the city government from interfering in their move to regain possession of the Alabang Central Terminal.

The petitioners also sought a temporary restraining order to bar local officials from supposedly harassing drivers of public utility vehicles in the area.

The petitioners include the Acopiado family—Rogelio, Alfredo, Fernando, Roberto, Alicia, Ester, and Elena—and Trinidad Pudiño vda. De Acopiado. They claim to be heirs of Don Anacleto Madrigal Acopiado.

Named respondents in the case are Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, Vice Mayor Jo Jason Alcaraz, the city council, and the city police, among others.

But Fresnedi yesterday dismissed the complaint as the handiwork of "enterprising individuals" who might be out to make money from the land dispute.

"The disputed area is part of the nine-hectare property donated to us by former President Fidel Ramos," he told the INQUIRER. "We have every right to develop it for the benefit of the public."

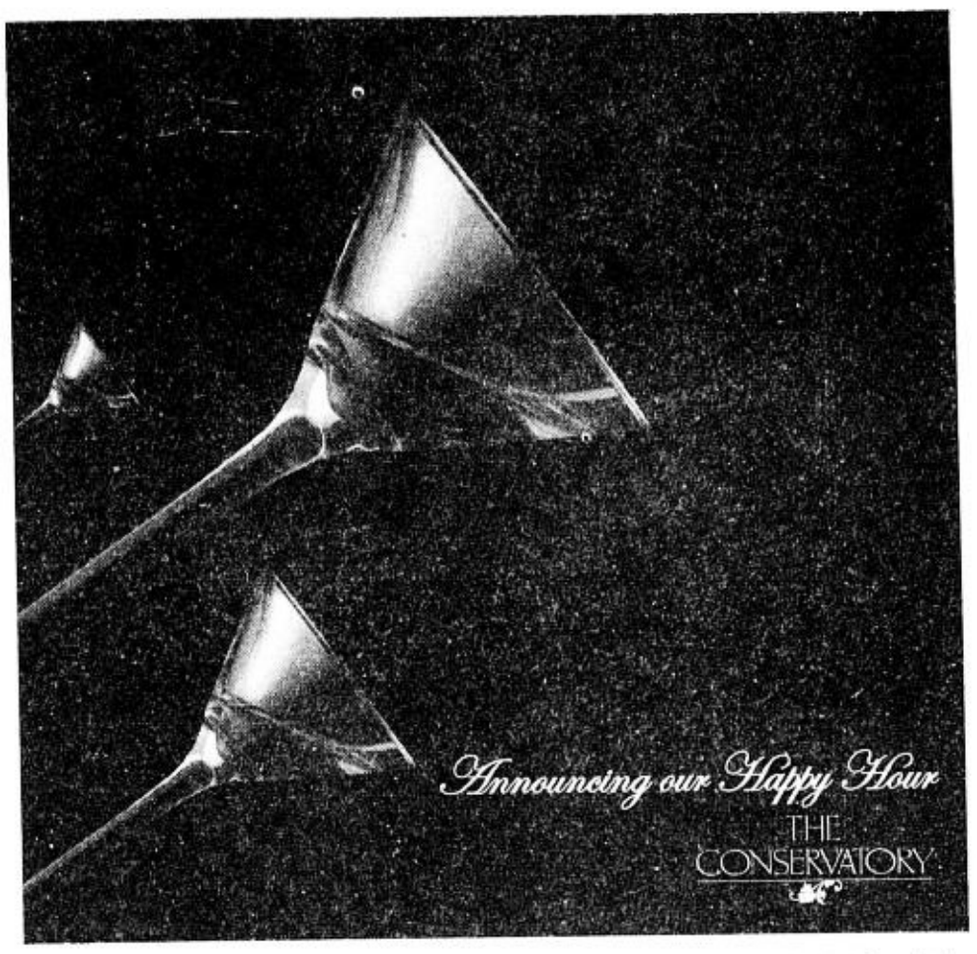
In the complaint, Satuito slammed the city council for adopting a resolution on Feb. 7, 2001 authorizing Fresnedi to enter into a contract for the development of the disputed property. The area has since been converted into a jeepney terminal and a commercial establishment.

Satuito claimed that the move was an "unwarranted encroachment on (a) private property" since the area was supposedly owned by Don Gregorio Madrigal Acopiado, father of Don Anacleto.

Fresnedi said another disputed property is the one located beside the Alabang terminal which is at least 5,000 sq. meters.

In 1999, Roberto Madrigal Acopiado supposedly transferred the land to Satuito who then "donated" the property to ATO I Transportation Services Inc. two years later.

Fresnedi said the property was also part of a parcel of land awarded to the city government by the Ramos administration.



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Squatters seek Christmas moratorium

By Leila B. Salaverria

LIKE the sidewalk vendors, informal settlers in Metro Manila are asking the Metro Manila Development Authority for a "Christmas moratorium" on the demolitions of their shanties.

Like the vendors' call, the settlers' request had also been turned down.

This has resulted into a protest rally that the members of the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod (KPML) yesterday staged in front of the MMDA office, demanding MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando for a dialogue with the illegal settlers before demolishing their shanties.

"We simply ask for a decent shelter before Christmas," said KPML president Jess Panis.

He said that urban poor groups would form the Koalisyon Kontra Demolisyon (KKD) to unite against the MMDA's planned demolition of shanties.

"We condemn the manner by which the MMDA operatives are intimidating and harassing the urban poor people," Panis said. "This is a clear act of terrorism on its highest form and no amount of sharpened bolos and ruthless intimidation could calm us down."

But Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna yesterday said that the MMDA could not compromise its position on the demolitions of illegal structures along waterways, as much as it could not falter on the sidewalk clearing operations.

He said the MMDA has not even scheduled any demolitions yet, but it would proceed with the plan even if it falls during the holiday season.

"There is no actual schedule of demolitions yet, but we will not relax our plans and we will not agree to a compromise," Lacuna told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the MMDA, the National Housing Authority and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council are still meeting and planning the demolition of shanties along waterways to stop or at least alleviate the flooding in the metropolis.

Fernando, who is now in charge of solving Metro Manila's perennial flooding, has said that waterways and its banks would have to be cleaned of garbage and illegal settlements so that the water level would not rise and spill into the streets.

MMDA to field more traffic investigators

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER learning that a minor road mishap or a stalled vehicle could cause a traffic gridlock that could extend for miles and last for a few hours, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando ordered the acquisition of additional traffic investigators that could respond to such accidents.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios yesterday said that the MMDA would also buy additional motorcycles for the investigators.

"The investigators would be located at strategic locations along Edsa so that they could immediately go to the accident scene," Vergel de Dios said.

He explained that for the past several months, the MMDA has discovered that minor accidents have been causing traffic gridlock.

"Even one stalled car can snarl traffic for hours," he said. "That is why we must try to remove that vehicle off the road immediately."

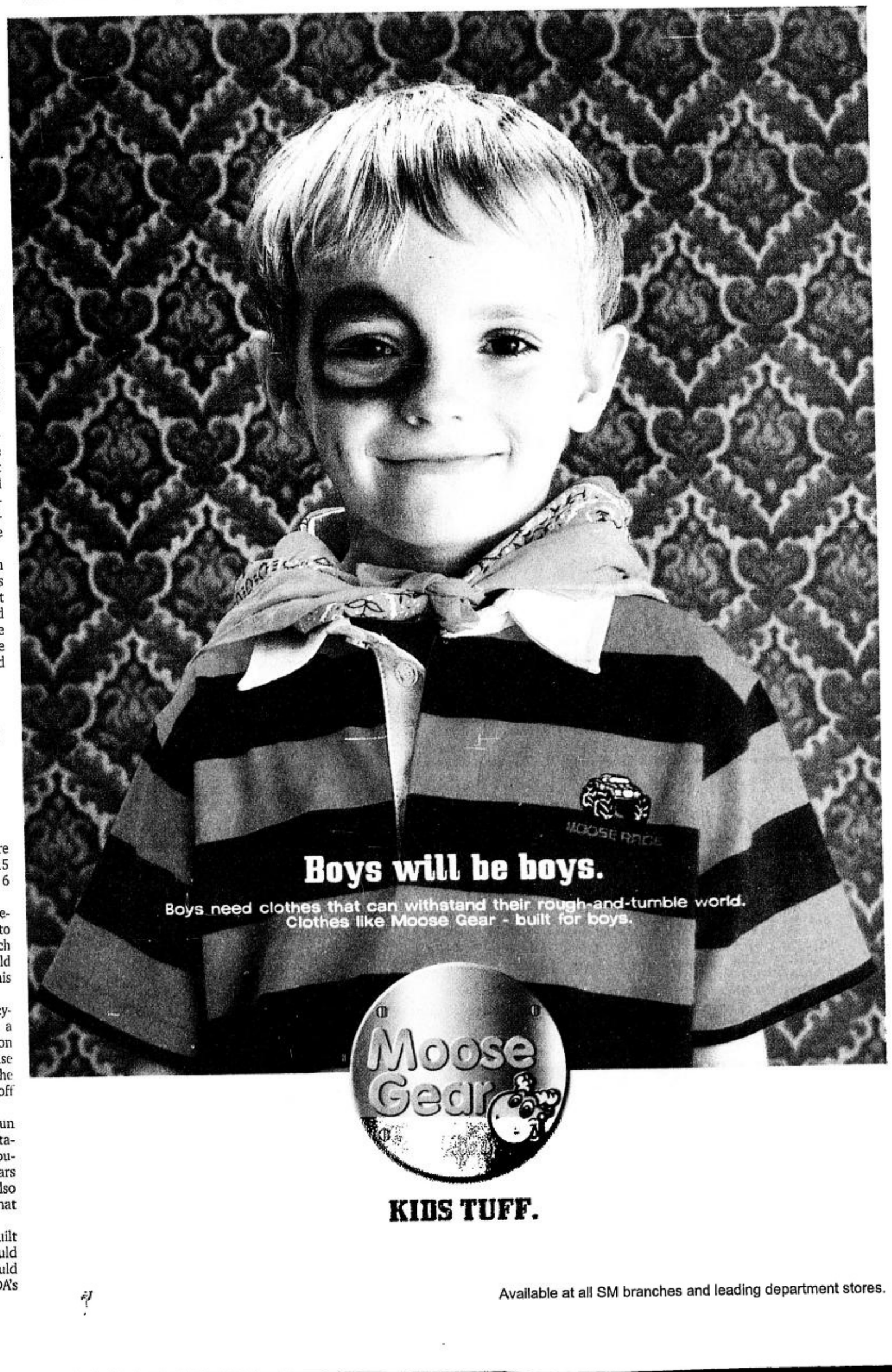
Vergel de Dios said that there was one day when there were 15 minor accidents from 6 a.m. to 6 in the evening.

He said traffic builds up because the stalled vehicle has to wait for police officers to reach the scene so that a report could be made. Unfortunately, this could take hours, he added.

But investigators on motorcycles could reach the scene in a few minutes, assess the situation and determine what is the cause and who is at fault, and the stalled vehicles could be taken off the street, Vergel de Dios said.

The MMDA has also begun construction of emergency stations that would contain ambulances, tow trucks, mobile cars and wreckers, which would also be used to remove vehicles that have been immobilized.

The first station is being built in Kamuning. The station would be open for 24 hours and could be reached through the MMDA's 136 hotline.



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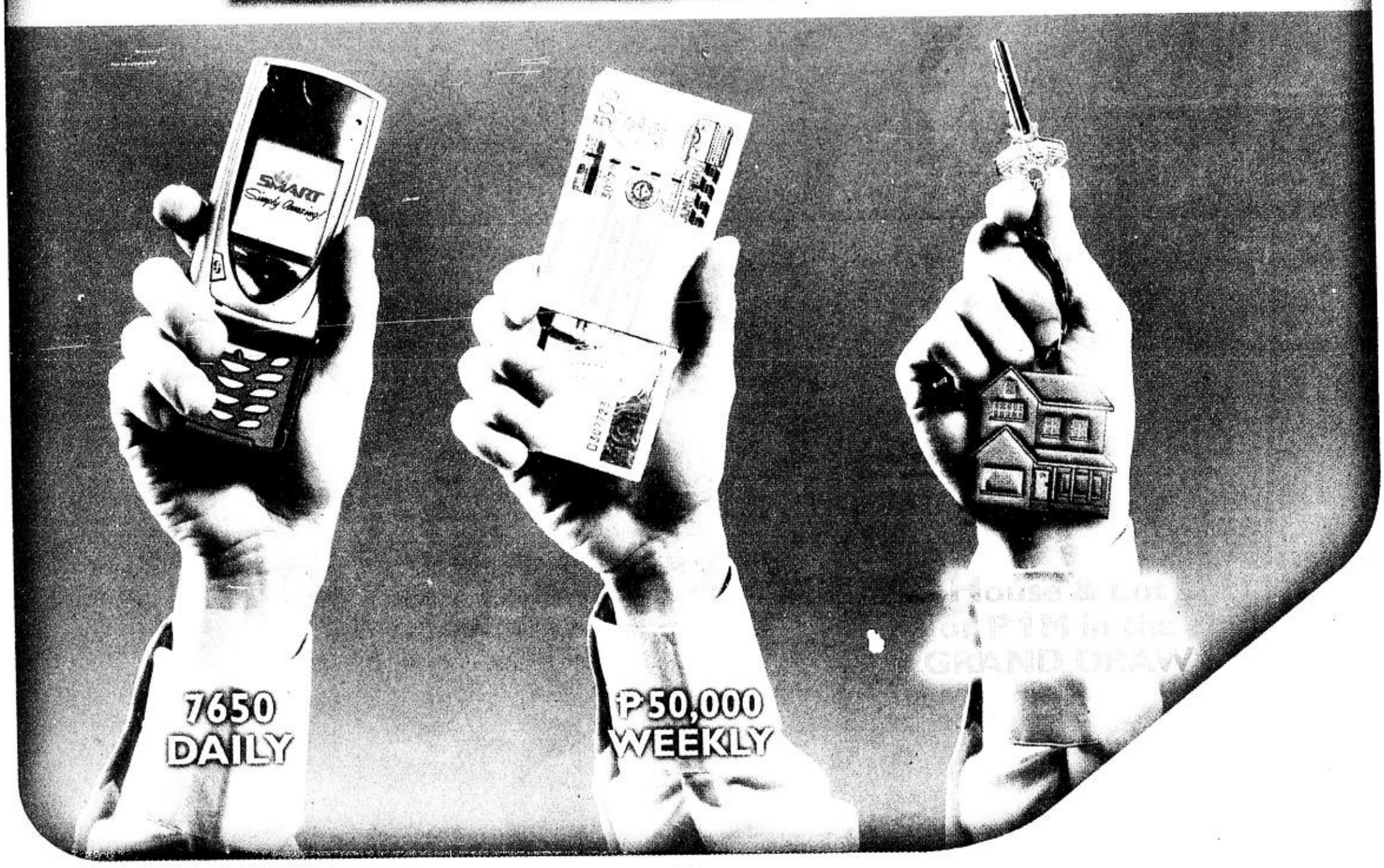

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BUSINESS

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RP urged to trim foreign debt, budget gap

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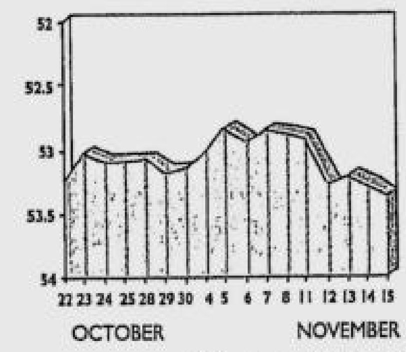

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P 53.375 = $ 1

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 15, 2002

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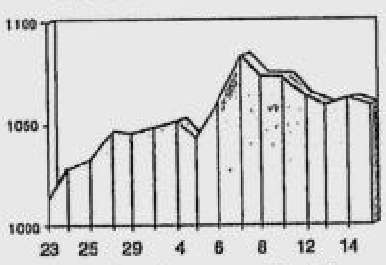
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS edged to a lower close yesterday, largely weighed down by losses in Meralco, the country's largest power distributor, traders said.

The downside was capped by gains in PLDT, one of the most heavily capitalized stocks on the exchange.

The main index closed down 3.15 points or 0.3 percent at 1,058.71 points. Turnover rose to P187.73 million from Thursday's meager P98.94 million but it was still light as budget deficit concerns, uncertainty over Iraq and a weakening local currency kept many investors quiet.

A slide in Meralco, which was facing an action in the Supreme Court over alleged overbilling, accounted for much of the main index's fall.

Just before the market closed, the court said it had ruled against the utility.

Traders said investors were spooked by the company warning that if the Supreme Court ordered it to pay back customers from alleged overbillings dating back to 1994, it could bankrupt the utility and imperil the economy.

STOCKS/ B4

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund yesterday urged the government to cut down its external debt and instead focus on reforms that would improve revenue collection and address the chronic budget deficit problem that had slipped out of control.

The IMF Executive Board, in a statement yesterday on the results of its annual review of the Philippines, warned of a serious erosion in investor confidence if problems with tax revenues and huge bad loans of the banking sector would remain unresolved.

"Directors (of the IMF) urged the authorities to limit the risks from external commercial borrowings. They noted that over the past several years, public external commercial borrowing has grown rapidly, increasing the country's vulnerability to external shocks," the IMF said in a statement.

As a result, the total public debt accounted for about 80 percent of the country's gross domestic product and maturing obligations next year would peak at $1.7 billion from an average of $1.5 billion in previous years.

The IMF suggested that the government increase its reliance on the domestic market as well as on concessional borrowings.

It also urged monetary authorities to build up the country's reserves by increasing its dollar purchases from the foreign exchange market.

But the IMF advice came too late as the government has prepared for a fresh $500-million, 10-year bond issue to be sold in the global markets soon.

The new bond issue is the fifth foreign deal this year and would put the cumulative borrowings at $2.35 billion for 2002.

"(The IMF) directors urged strong action at this point to bring the reforms back on track. The most critical task, they stressed, was to bring the budget back under control," the IMF statement said.

Weak revenues this year caused the huge fiscal slippage that led to a deficit of P166.4 billion as of September, widening further to P180 billion in the first 10 months against an original target of P130 billion, a revised target of P155 billion or 4 percent of GDP, and the most recent target of P180 billion or 4.5 percent of GDP.

Next year, the deficit target of P142.1 billion is being reviewed to

RP/ B3

RP eyes free-trade deals with key trade partners

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is leaning toward pursuing free-trade discussions on a bilateral rather than multilateral basis such as the World Trade Organization.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the multilateral trade discussions in the WTO have become "too complex a system" that it has been difficult for developing countries like the Philippines to push its demands and protect its interests.

Trade officials have rued the bureaucratic maze that developing countries have to go through and the costs that they have to bear before they could have their voices heard in the WTO.

Aquino said the government was now inclined to undertake more trade liberalization discussions through direct negotiations with the country's trade partners. "It is a more involved process," Aquino said.

The Philippines has agreed to kick off bilateral talks with China for a free-trade agreement in line with the proposed Asean-China trade block in 2010. Next year, the Philippines will start talks on similar FTA deals with Japan and the United States following their keen interest in spurring more trade.

Aquino said FTA discussions were less complicated and faster to wrap up than multilateral discussions under the WTO.

An FTA allows the Philippines to focus on getting more concessions for its exports while ensuring that imports from the potential partner would not affect local industries. In contrast, the Philippines has to consider the interests of other countries before pursuing its needs and it has succumbed to peer pressure in opening its markets.

A number of distressed local industries have blamed the government's zealous adoption of the WTO's free-trade policies, which they said have opened up the country to industrial and consumer goods and agriculture commodities from developed countries that have kept their markets closed to the country's agriculture products.

With local industries whining, the Macapagal administration had recently announced that it was deferring its WTO commitment to lower most favored nation or non-Asean duties to a maximum 5 percent by 2004.

See tentcards and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2197, Series of 2002

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Million dollar main

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOW each of the rest of the Cabinet is a suspect for being the million-dollar man.

The term is an obvious takeoff from the character in the old television series, and it surfaced again recently, but this time in politics.

Perhaps it's true, in this country, politics and movies are tied together. We cannot tell one from the other anymore.

We even have the FPJ Movement for 2004, which is no longer funny, even if it's just a joke.

* * *

RECENTLY, the Lee Majors fictional character came up in the privilege speech of a crusading gentleman from Bulacan, Rep. Willie Buyson Villarama.

Villarama, as everybody does not care to know, is only one of the many congressmen (more or less two) who belong to the political party of citizen Raul Roco.

It turns out Villarama gave the speech, although he did not even know the name of the Cabinet member. He just accused the Cabinet member of accepting bribes big time.

What I have yet to figure out is, how Villarama came to know that the million dollar man was a Cabinet member. He was not, for instance, a well-dressed worm.

It was a Cabinet member, no less, as Villarama claimed, although he did not even know Mister X's name, much less the size of Mister X's underwear.

* * *

IT turns out that Villarama had the documents to prove that millions of dollars went to a certain bank account, but the documents only showed the number of the account.

In another brilliant move, Villarama passed the buck to the National Bureau of Investigation, by putting the NBI to task to find out the name behind the account.

Everybody did not think, however, that the NBI assignment from Villarama was the topic of his meeting with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Laar . . . *este*, Nani, for short, Perez also did not think that he was the Cabinet member whom Villarama romanced a bit in his privilege speech.

Why then did the two of them have to meet in a classy hotel just by themselves, I have yet to figure out. Oh no, don't tell me, they already *(sila na)*.

* * *

WELL, Villarama already agreed with Perez that Perez was not the million-dollar man. How Villarama knew it was not Perez, if he did not even know who it really was?

Because if the mysterious million dollar-man was not Nani Perez, who was it then? He can be any of the Cabinet members. Well, any of the men there.

I don't know, given that kind of gall, what kind of injustice which the other Cabinet men now must suffer, but I have some good news for you.

Of course the NBI may now clear the women in the Cabinet. The million-dollar man, as the term indicates, was a man. Sit down, Dinky, I'm not talking to you!

He cannot be any of the women in the Cabinet, unless of course . . . well, now I wonder why Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas was turning into a baritone lately.

* * *

ALL that Sen. Panfilo Lacson did, therefore, was to provide the name which he said everybody already knew—and it was that of Perez.

Lacson said the multi-million dollar bribe came from an Argentine company, the one and only Impsa. Whaaat—it's this company again?

Impsa is the same famous Impsa which made the initials "MJ" famous during the time of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

How come a foreign company could do a lot of foolishness here? It got a $50-million advance from Napocor for doing nothing. What's 10 percent of $50 million again?

* * *

AS everybody in business who's in the know will tell you, everybody in business is now wondering about THE law firm.

Everybody already knows which, among the thousands of law firms in this country, is THE law firm.

It is one of the most influential groups in the Palace nowadays. Everybody knows that any bigtime transaction involving the government must pass through THE law firm.

Everybody also knows that a couple of the partners in THE law firm, all at the same time at one time, bought million-dollar properties in a place called Boca Raton.

That's in the United States. It is the vacation place of the rich and famous, or sometimes infamous. There, a house scores for, easily, a million dollars, my main!

Eat your heart out, you Cabinet member you, whoever you are!

* * *

JOSIE Yap, president of the group called Piso, which is not exactly the best friend of PLDT, told me that PLDT must give Piso members access to PLDT infrastructure for Internet broadband service.

That is under the law, she said, meaning, whether PLDT likes it or not.

That's why Piso, or the Philippine Internet Services Organization, went to the National Telecommunications Commission, to force PLDT to give the access.

Fine, but is that a good move? My own sources in PLDT said that the NTC case may be unfortunate for the other Piso members of good standing.

Yap's company, I was told, owes PLDT a lot of money.

* * *

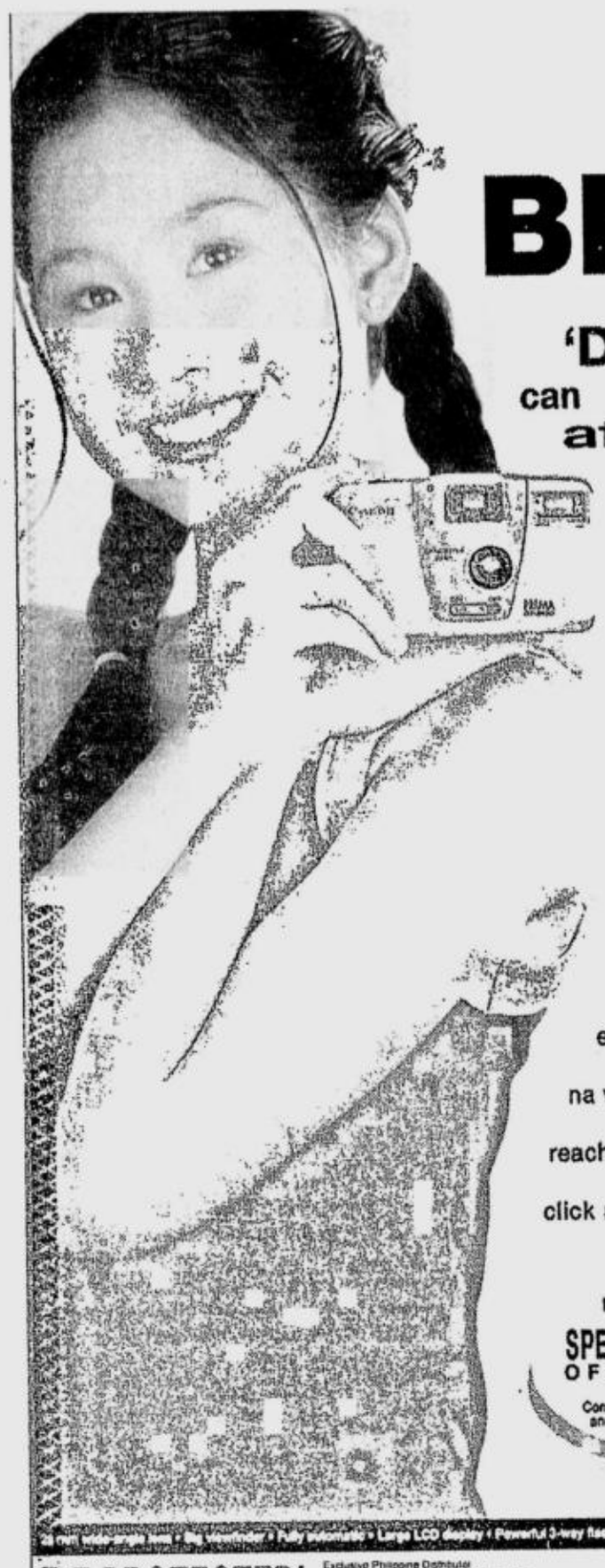
YAP claims that, since telephone service is the raw material in her business, her company should only owe its supplier, such as PLDT, a certain amount of . . . well, supplier's credit.

Valid or not, anyway, Yap's argument on credit is even not a factor in PLDT's decision whether or not it should offer broadband services to Piso members.

Ironically, before Yap and company filed the NTC case, PLDT was ready to act on the proposed leases of PLDT facilities for broadband service to Piso members.

That, I told Yap, has changed with the NTC case. Now they have to wait until after the NTC decides on the case. And who knows how long that will take?

Canon



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CANON CAMERA SHOWROOMS:
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MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to the management and staff of Central Affirmative Company, Inc. on your 2nd Year Anniversary.

I commend your company as it reaches another milestone in its history. With its remarkable growth in a short span of only two years, the company has displayed the Filipino will and capability to excel in the global era. I urge you to continue keeping the quality of your products and services at par with world-class standards as we strive to win the opportunities for growth development.

The 21st century offers unlimited opportunities to attain greater progress and prosperity for our country. Each of us is called upon to take advantage of these opportunities and assume a more active role in nation building. It is therefore inspiring to know that there are companies such as yours that complement our government's efforts in creating a vibrant business environment.

I wish your company greater success in your future endeavors. My Administration joins hands with the private sector in establishing the physical foundations for sustainable development and in ensuring the attainment of our vision of a more peaceful and prosperous life for our countrymen.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Office of the President of the Philippines
VIDEOGRAM REGULATORY BOARD

MESSAGE

Warmest felicitations and sincerest greetings to Central Affirmative Co., Inc., the manufacturer of AFficionado, on its 2nd anniversary!

It is very worthy to note the success of this enterprise, which has provided the Filipino with world-class quality products at very accessible cost for the past 2 years. Indeed, it continues to showcase Filipino talent and ingenuity in coming up with alternative products that are comparable to the best in the world.

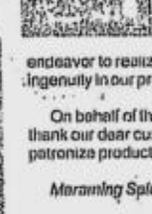
Likewise, its undertakings and sense of social responsibility is worthy of praise and emulation. Not every enterprise takes time to share its blessings with the underprivileged, and your act to help the children of San Lazaro Hospital is truly noteworthy.

The challenge therefore is for AF to continue this tradition, further improve its products, and tap other markets.

With over 300 employees and over 100 outlets nationwide, I am sure that in the coming years, Central Affirmative Co., Inc. shall become one of the prime movers in their field.

Again, Congratulations!

RAMON 'Bong' REVILLA, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



MESSAGE

It is my dream for my fellow Filipinos to have quality products at very reasonable and affordable prices. Armed with all the blessings God has bestowed upon me, and driven by the will to achieve world class quality, I shall endeavor to realize this vision by showcasing the inherent Filipino creativity and ingenuity in our products.

On behalf of the men and women behind Central Affirmative Company, Inc., I thank our dear customers for their continued support. Together, we shall proudly patronize products that are truly Filipino made.

Maraming Salamat Po!

Mr. Joselito S. Cruz
PRESIDENT - C.E.O.

PSE to open dollar trading board in '03

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is firming up a new settlement and clearing scheme with banks to finally jump-start its planned dollar-denominated equities trading board by early next year.

In a press briefing yesterday, PSE president Ernest Leung said the bourse would also push through with the plan to market and eventually list mutual funds to further diversify the PSE's product offerings. He said the new mutual fund scheme would likely be finalized sooner than the dollar trading board.

In the case of the dollar-denominated trading facility, the board will initially be restricted to trading of the three biggest companies whose shares were likewise listed in offshore exchanges, namely, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Sun Life Financial Co. and Manulife financial Corp.

"We still have to work out the dollar clearing system with the banks ,"Leung said.

"The concept is to have this dollar trading facility through off-site trading between 2 and 4 p.m. and the settlement will be in dollars," Leung said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas already approved the PSE's plan to put up a dollar trading board earlier on condition that the dollars to be used would not come from the banking system. The PSE will also be required to regularly report to the BSP the transactions under the proposed dollar board, to prevent currency speculators to use the facility to attack the peso.

The dollar-denominated trading facility aims to enhance the PSE's present trading infrastructure by allotting an extended off-floor trading session for the trading of securities of Philippine companies that are also listed abroad. It also seeks to introduce an attractive environment for cross-border investments in the country.

With the dismal value turnover at the PSE, officials are hoping that the introduction of new products like the dollar trading board would help perk up the sluggish investor interest.

Aside from the dollar trading board, the PSE has also started conducting seminars in preparation for the trading of mutual funds, which refers to investment companies that pool money to invest in a portfolio of securities.

Sun Life Asset Management Co. earlier proposed the distribution of shares of mutual funds through PSE trading participants who will likewise trade these instruments upon listing.

The PSE, for its part, has agreed to provide a price reporting system for the net asset values of the mutual funds to be offered.

Meanwhile, the PSE is likewise working out a new facility that will promote the secondary trading of more fixed income instruments, particularly treasury bills with maturity of one year or less.

Leung said shorter-term fixed instruments were more attractive for secondary trading because institutional investors like insurance companies usually prefer to hold on to long-term instruments.

JG Summit 9-mo profit down 22%

By Elena R. Torrijos

JG Summit Holdings Inc., the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, said that its profit had dropped 22 percent in the first nine months of this year to P1.78 billion from P2.28 billion in the same period last year.

In a statement, JG Summit said that its net income would have been higher at P1.98 billion were it not for a non-recurring loss on the sale of its 20-percent stake in Toledo Power Corp.

The decline in profit came despite the fact that consolidated revenue for the nine-month period grew 12.5 percent to P35.2 billion.

JG Summit president and chief operating officer Lance Gokongwei said, "The company continues to be resilient despite very challenging business conditions and we attribute this mainly to the stable earnings from our food, property and airline businesses."

JG Summit's units include snack food giant Universal Robina Corp., property developer Robinsons Land Corp., telecommunications firm Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc., airline Cebu Pacific and JG Summit Petrochemicals.

Gokongwei said the group's strategy and focus in the future would continue to center on building its food business in the Association of Southeast Asian Nation and Greater China markets.

RP urged ...

From page B1

consider the poor fiscal performance this year.

"Directors observed that these problems, if left unattended, could trigger a decline in investor confidence and an adverse market reaction that would affect the country's growth prospects," the IMF said.

The Fund advised the government to stick to its medium-term plan of bringing down the deficit to zero by 2006.

This plan, however, is being reviewed by the government's economic team with the objective of pushing back the timetable by two to four years.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had acknowledged that the government's failure to limit the budget deficit this year would affect the targets next year and in the medium term.

The IMF also urged the government to clean up the bad loans of the banking sector, accelerate the plan to allow asset management companies to buy these bad loans and assets, strengthen the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism policies, and eliminate the deficiencies identified by the Financial Action Task Force.

The plan to privatize and deregulate the power sector must move forward, according to the IMF. The Fund said such plans must be accompanied with a strong and depoliticized regulator of electricity prices.

"So far, investor confidence in the Philippines has remained reasonably robust, partly attributed to the fact that the bulk of the country's external commercial borrowing for 2002 has already been completed, while international reserves are comfortably above short-term debt." the IMF said.

ROXAS HOLDINGS, INC.
6th Floor, Cacho-Gonzales Building
101 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City, Metro Manila

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of **ROXAS HOLDINGS, INC.** (formerly, CENTRAL AZUCARERA DON PEDRO) will be held on Wednesday, 27 November 2002, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Mandarin Hotel, Makati City, Metro Manila. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

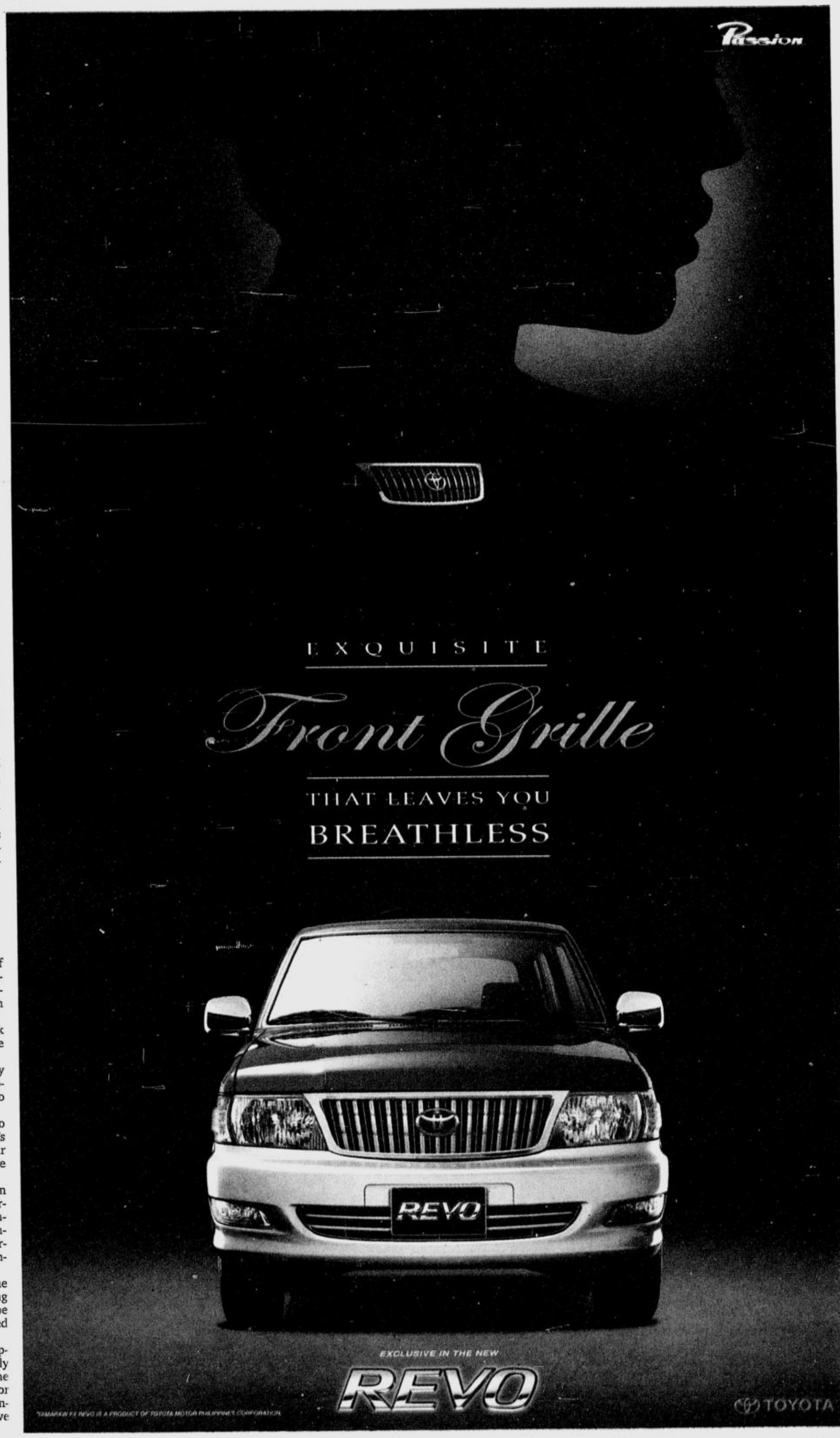
I. Certification of Notice and Quorum;
II. Approval of the minutes of the annual meeting of stockholders held on 28 November 2001;
III. Presentation and approval of the Annual Report to stockholders for the year ended 30 June 2002;
IV. Ratification of all acts and resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management;
V. Approval and ratification of the increase in Authorized Capital Stock from P1 Billion to P1.5 Billion;
VI. Approval of ratification of the 20% Stock Dividend declaration;
VII. Approval and ratification of the Amendment to Art. 13 of the By-Laws of the Corporation;
VIII. Election of the Board of Directors;
IX. Election of External Auditors;
X. Other Matters;
XI. Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed 15 October 2002 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and vote at the annual stockholders' meeting. Accordingly, only stockholders as of the said date shall be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

If you will be unable to attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, you can send your proxy to the Office of the Corporate Secretary on or before 25 November 2002. Registration will start at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

FLORENCIO M. MAMAUAG, JR.
Assistant Corporate Secretary



MPC net loss hits ₱8.6B

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONGLOMERATE Metro Pacific Corp. recorded a net loss of P8.6 billion in the first nine months of the year, up from P2.2 billion a year ago on one-time loss provisioning put up for its controlling stake in Bonifacio Land Co.

Excluding a P7.2-billion provision made for BLC in the first half of the year , MPC's consolidated net loss would have been reduced to P1.5 billion from P1.6 billion (net of provision) in the nine-month period last year, partly buoyed by the turnaround of shipping unit Negros Navigation Co. and leisure estate unit Landco Pacific Corp.

In a disclosure, MPC said its consolidated revenues stood at P4.1 billion during the nine-month period, 25 percent lower than the P5.5 billion last year, while operating expenses declined by 11.1 percent to P772.8 million due to an ongoing streamlining program.

Financing charges dropped by 32.4 percent to P1.1 billion due to the halt in interest accruals on some of the MPC and BLC loans that were settled earlier.

The company's consolidated assets stood at P60.9 billion as of end-September, financed by stockholders equity in the amount of P31.8 billion and consolidated liabilities of P29 billion, of which about P18.2 billion was interest-bearing.

MPC's total debts stood at P11.9 bilion. Excluding the principal of the loan from parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. amounting to P4.7 billion and other secured obligations, the company said only P2.8 billion in debts were left in need of repayment or restructuring to date.

Subsidiaries Nenaco and Landco posted net profits of P45.8 million and P25.3 million, respectively, reversing the losses of P538.1 million and P25.2 million in the same nine-month period last year.

Property units Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Pacific Plaza Towers Corp. incurred respective net losses of P122.6 million and P58.1 million amid the continued slump in the upscale property market. The losses, however, were reduced from the respective levels of P139.6 million and P96.9 million a year ago.

MPC earlier entered into a deal to sell the assets of banking unit First e-Bank to Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

MPC chair and president Manuel Pangilinan said: "These results illustrate Metro Pacific's efforts to continue reducing its operating losses and as the return to profitability of Nenaco and Landco shows, we are making progress in this regard."

"While FBDC and Pacific Plaza Towers remain adversely impacted by the overall negative sentiment that exists throughout the property sector, both are showing resilience in the market, and their prospects are positive," he added.

Stocks ...

From page B1

"The problem was in coming out with a statement like that it was like saying to the court: 'Look out, there will be dire consequences for the economy if we don't get our way'," said Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

The company also said recently that if it did not receive a rate hike from the industry regulator soon, it might be in danger of breaching covenants on some loans that fall due next year. *Reuters*

HOME Plus FURNITURE
A DIVISION OF ABENSON

Home with Style but at real affordable price

Leatherette Upholstered Living Room set
TROY LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1 (Leatherette Upholstered) ₱6898
* Center table not included

Fabric Upholstered Living Room set
PEACOCK LIVING ROOM SET 3-2 w/ 5 Throw Pillows ₱9998

OLGA LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1 (Leatherette Upholstered) ₱6398

LINDSELL LIVING ROOM SET 3-2 w/ 5 Throw Pillows ₱8495

MIGGIE LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1 (Leatherette Upholstered) ₱5648

JELLI LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1 w/ 5-Throw Pillows ₱7498

2-Seater Sofa
JANICA 2-SEATER SOFA w/ Free 2 Throw Pillows ₱3998
MARIEL 2-SEATER SOFA w/ Free 2 Throw Pillows ₱3498
YSEBELLE 2-SEATER SOFA w/ Free 1 Stool and 2 Throw Pillows ₱2998

Dining Set
SY2000 DINING SET with 6 Chairs (All Wood) ₱7998
ANGIE DINING SET w/ 6 Chairs (Glass Top) ₱5598
ANGIE DINING SET w/ 4 Chairs (Glass Top) ₱3998

Beds
CINDY DOUBLE DECK w/ Pullout (3pcs. 4X36X75 Mattress) (Other models Available ALLAINE & DB123) ₱5998
DAISY BUNK BED with 2-Mattresses (1pc. 4X36-X75, 1pc. 4X54X75) (Other models Available CINDY & ALLADIN) ₱4998
SHEENA BED FRAME 60X75 (1 pc. Matching Mattress) (Other Models Available: Hastin & Monica) ₱3598
SOFA BED (36 Inches) ₱1998

Entertainment Rack
KS108 ENTERTAINMENT RACK ₱1898
FREE CD RACK
HLA3309005 ENTERTAINMENT RACK ₱2748
MG3515 ENTERTAINMENT RACK ₱1798

Bookcases
BS612 BOOKCASE ₱2298
US3052 BOOKCASE ₱1995
KS31000 BOOKCASE ₱998

E-mail: abshmkt@the.net.ph

MUNTINLUPA — METROPOLIS Tels. 809-8172 to 74
CAINTA — STA. LUCIA GRAND MALL Tels. 681-5301
CUBAO — RUSTANS Tels. 911-2312
MARIKINA — RIVERBANKS MALL Tels. 941-5003
MAKATI — PASONG TAMO Tels. 813-4444
CAVITE — IMUS Tels. (046) 471-0531
LAS PIÑAS — PAMPALONA Tels. 872-0576 to 77
QUEZON CITY — E. RODRIGUEZ Tels. 724-2528
CABANATUAN — NE PACIFIC MALL NUEVA ECIJA Tels. (044) 464-1481 to 84
GALLERIA — ROBINSONS Tels. 631-9101
LAGUNA — CALAMBA Tels. (049) 911-2312
GEN. TRIAS Tels. (046) 419-1150
ALABANG — ZAPOTE ROAD Tels. 850-8848
FAIRVIEW - REGALADO Tels. 937-5911
CONGRESSIONAL AVE. CIRCLE C MALL Tels. 927-7221
PARAÑAQUE — PEARL PLAZA - TAMBO Tels. 854-8101
MARIKINA — RIVERBANKS MALL Tels. 941-5003
PASAY — METROPOINT - TAFT AVE Tels. 833-7829
SAN PABLO Tels. (049) 560-8242
SANTA ROSA Tels. (049) 520-8180
BIÑAN Tels. (049) 520-8209
DASMARIÑAS Tels. (046) 416-1144
LOTUS - IMUS Tels. (046) 515-5751
CARMONA Tels. (046) 430-2702 to 04

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, November 15, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	5.9	4.8	5.9	32,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	26,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	42.5	41.5	42	225,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	27	26	27	248,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	31	73,500
Philippine National Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.34	0.4	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1210	1200	1205	1,720
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	950	910	950	4,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	400
Diversified Fin. Network	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	420	420	420	420	50
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	900,000
ISM Communications Corp..	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	10,000
Piltel	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.24	2,480,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	257.5	260	255	257.5	183,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.25	13.5	60,900
Manila Electric Co. B	18	18	16.25	16.5	2,862,000
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.62	244,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	465,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.3	0.3	40,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	246,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	167,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	14,300
Rfm Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	7,280,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	48,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	64	64	97,400
Universal Robina Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	876,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	656,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.18	0.19	2,300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	103,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	428,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.6	1.6	156,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	695,000
Keppel Holdings	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	90,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	230,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.75	3	2.75	3	21,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	3,800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	3,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	43,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	18	18	18	18	1,800
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	11,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	710,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series 0	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	26,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,301,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.91	860,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	60,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,000,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	313,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	584,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Philex Mining Corp A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	73,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	689,130	25,258,150.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	41,705,650	130,778,815.00
PRO	9,168,000	31,197,280.00
Mining	170,000	43,400.00
OIL	83,200,000	264,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	134,932,780	187,542,045.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	412.54	UP 0.08
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,473.82	DOWN 4.34
PRO	461.04	DOWN 2.64
Mining	1,071.63	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.33	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	632.72	UP 15.82
Composite	1,058.71	DOWN 3.15

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 1,360

DISCLOSURES

ROXAS Holdings Inc. said it had obtained a P400-million loan from Landbank of the Philippines last Oct. 28 for the modernization of its facilities in Batangas. Last June 28, Central Azucarera de la Carlota got a P350-million loan from the same bank for the improvement of its Negros Occidental facilities.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp. announced the appointment of Virgilio de Guzman as treasurer of the company.

* * *

VULCAN Industrial & Mining Corp. announced the resignation of Jaime Laya as director in view of his accounting firm's policy of discouraging acceptance of directorship positions.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. reported that its net income for the first nine months of the year rose by 23.8 percent to P446.1 million. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Nov. 15, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.99552	1	53.338
Japan	Yen	0.008262	0.008299	0.4427
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572424	1.5795	84.2474
Hongkong	Dollar	0.127639	0.128213	6.8386
Switzerland	Franc	0.682518	0.685589	36.5679
Canada	Dollar	0.632116	0.634961	33.8675
Singapore	Dollar	0.565475	0.56802	30.2971
Australia	Dollar	0.559973	0.562493	30.0023
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.641338	2.653224	141.5177
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.265472	0.266667	14.2235
Brunei	Dollar	0.562282	0.564812	30.1259
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.022976	0.023079	1.231
UAE	Dirham	0.271074	0.272294	14.5236
Euro	Euro	1	1.0045	53.578
ArgentinaPeso	Peso	0.281221	0.282486	15.0672
Brazil	REAL	0.269496	0.270709	14.4391
Denmark	Kroner	0.134712	0.135318	7.2176
India	Rupee	0.020658	0.020751	1.1068
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.262014	0.263193	14.0382
Mexico	New Peso	0.097475	0.097914	5.2225
New Zealand	Dollar	0.497561	0.4998	26.6583
Norway	Kroner	0.136687	0.137302	7.3234
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017105	0.017182	0.9165
South Africa	Rand	0.102821	0.103284	5.509
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.000832	0.0444
Sweden	Kroner	0.110029	0.110524	5.8951
Syria	Pound	0.01933	0.019417	1.0357
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02878	0.02891	1.542
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000727	0.00073	0.0389

MOTOROLA COLORS THE ROAD

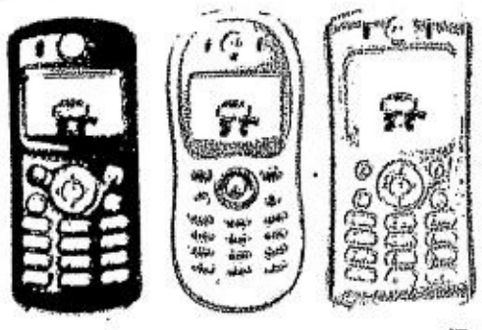
Motorola's Personal Communications Sector goes on a road tour for its MotoBlitz campaign that introduces the latest range of mobile phones. The launching of MotoBlitz in the country signifies Motorola's confidence in the local market.

"Motorola is confident in the local market. We continue to create and innovate new products to meet the demands of today's dynamic and discriminating clientele," said Ellen T. Suarez, Motorola's Marketing Manager for Consumer Solutions Group-South Asia.

The first destination of Motorola's road tour was in Lipa, Batangas City. Ms. Suarez proudly introduced the MotoBlitz campaign and its carrier models Motorola E360, C330, T720 and V60i, to dealers. It was a successful event as the new phones were welcomed with enthusiasm. Next stops are Tarlac (November 12), Dagupan (November 13), Baguio (November 15), Davao (November 19), Cebu (November 20), Iloilo (November 21), Cagayan de Oro (November 22), and Manila (November 26).

"No doubt about it. Motorola's road tour is a show of breakthrough in technology" Ms. Suarez said.

Motorola Inc. is a global leader in providing integrated communications and embedded electronic solutions. Sales in 2001 were US$30 billion.



MOTOBLITZ COLORS YOUR WORLD

MotoBlitz launched four distinctively designed and enhanced mobile phones, the Motorola E360, C330, T720 and V60i. The new phone series is set to revolutionize the trend in the mobile phone industry.

Motorola E360

The flagship product for the MotoBlitz campaign is the Motorola E360, Motorola's first color phone. With its brilliant, high-resolution display that supports 4,096 colors, the Motorola E360 can surely catch the attention of today's discriminating market. Packed with enhanced messaging, group SMS and exciting games, the Motorola E360 is unbelievably affordable.

Motorola T720

For the high-tech road warriors, there's the Motorola T720 which is also a color phone. Developed as a communications power tool, the Motorola T720 makes available to professionals top-of-the-line features such as GPRS high-speed Internet access, J2ME functionality that enables users to customize applications, voice dialing, menu shortcuts and a host of other important applications that help busy people get a grip on their busy lives.

Motorola C330

The new Motorola C330 series is the first "morph-able" phone of its kind. Users can transform the look and feel of the Motorola C330 by simply interchanging any of its three housings - Ice, Vapor, and Liquid. This versatile phone is designed to offer a multitude of styles and lifestyle options—be it going to the office, to a party or just to hang loose.

Motorola V60i

Motorola V60i is a sleek and sophisticated mobile phone that offers a range of business and entertainment functions including advanced two-way SMS messaging, caller ID information system, iTAP software for simplified text entries, and built-in microbrowser, among others. This revamped model of the V60 also combines superior craftsmanship and intelligence with tri-band, J2ME features and GPRS technology completing its features.

Rediscover Christmas with MOTOROLA

Spread the message of love this yuletide season by giving your family and friends the gift that will keep you in touch across time and space.
The E360, T720, V60i, and C330.
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Get your MOTOROLA mobile phones and accessories at:

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COMMONWEALTH TELECENTER: Ground Floor, Verde Oro Building, 535 Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City, Tels.: (632) 931-5256 * (632) 951-7992 to 95 * (632) 511-4325 Fax No.: (632) 455-9206 • **MAKATI OFFICE:** 4077 Camalig St., 4078 Palanan, Makati City Tels.: (632) 834-1318 * (632) 833-0135 Fax No.: (632) 551-18-10 • **BINONDO TELECENTER:** Regina Garden II Bldg., Regina Regente St., Binondo, Manila Tel.: (632) 242-2044 • **LIPA BRANCH:** Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City (Beside BATELEC) Tels.: (043) 756-4249 * (043) 312-2728 Telefax: (043) 981-2835 • **ERICSSON SHOP-LIPA:** Fiesta World Mall, Maraouy, Lipa City Mobile: (0919) 823-5577 • **LIPA TELECENTER:** Guadalupe Plaza Bldg. C.M. Recto Ave., Lipa City Tel.: (043) 757-1787 • **CALAMBA BRANCH:** Sta. Cecilia, Business Ctr. 1 Parian, Calamba, Laguna; Stall #1 Telefax: (049) 545-0570 * (049) 834-0879 * (049) 545-5214 Stall #8 Tel.: (049) 245-4373 • **SAN FERNANDO BRANCH:** Unit 3, GF Plaza Garcia Bldg., Dolores, City of San Fernando Tel. (045) 861-0244 Telefax: (045) 961-7925 • **SAN FERNANDO TELECENTER:** GF Guvao Bldg. Mc Arthur Hiway San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga Mobile: (0919) 503-5071 • **TAGAYTAY TELECENTER:** Olivarez Plaza II E. Aguinaldo Hiway, Tagaytay City Mobile (0919) 597 2077 • **COMWORKS LEGASPI:** GF LCC Department Store, Rizal St., Legaspi City • **CAGAYAN DE ORO BRANCH:** Unit 220, De Leon Building, Velez St. corner Yakapm St., Cagayan de Oro City Mobile: (0918) 936-6528 * (0919) 854-2610 • **LEGASPI BRANCH:** #1 Binanuahan St., corner Rizal St. Legaspi City Telefax: (052) 820-3411 Mobile: (0917) 536-9660

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24th Annual Yakult

National Dealers' Convention

Grand Ballroom, Manila Midtown Hotel

November 16, 2002

Proper Digestion, Good Health, Long Life!

Messages

I convey my warmest felicitations to the organizers of and participants to this year's 24th Annual Dealers' Convention.

I commend your organization for the years of unwavering commitment to provide quality health drink to our people.

This year's gathering with the theme: "Proper Digestion, Good Health, Long Life," comes at an opportune time when we are intensifying our efforts to make all Filipinos live healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. The services you provide complement our government's health care programs.

As you mark this important event in your organization, I urge you to remain steadfast in your commitment towards this noble objective. May this occasion forge closer ties within your organization so you can find the resolve to accomplish more for the well-being of your members, your community and our country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Her Excellency
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Warmest greetings to Yakult Philippines as it celebrates its 24th Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention on 16 November 2002 in honor of Yakult Ladies.

I hope that you will use this convention to also help educate the public on the importance of food and nutrition to good health and good life. Your theme: "Proper Digestion, Good Health, Long Life" can be an effective tool to communicate to everyone that health is Wealth.

While the issue of health is an important concern, I fear that not many are aware and the few who are aware take it for granted. We must therefore help in reversing this attitude to that we can all realize our vision of a healthy Philippines.

I am also glad that the company has been giving recognition to its very industrious and hard working Yakult Ladies who have become recognizable fixtures of our society and whose dedication to their work have helped bring the company to where it is now.

As an advocate of preventive and promotive medicine, I join you in this campaign to inform the public about good health for this can serve as a weapon against ignorance and apathy that either cause or aggravate health and nutrition problems. In order for us to succeed, we must instill in our people a consciousness that prevention is still the best cure.

Mabuhay kayo and Let's DOH it.

JUAN FLAVIER, MD, M.P.H.
Senator

Let me convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of Yakult Philippines, Inc. as they hold their 24th Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention with the theme: "Proper Digestion, Good Health, Long Life".

Over the years, your company has been our devoted ally in the promotion of health among our people through good nutrition and essential health habits. The role that you have achieved in your door-to-door delivery of health drink through your Yakult Ladies, as well as your relentless support provided in the implementation of vital health programs of the government deserves commendation and encouragement.

As you add another year to your roster of achievements, may you continue to uphold the standards of excellence in all your activities. Let us be one in achieving our common vision of "Health for All" and ensure the continuous improvement of our people's health.

I hope that through this convention, you will continuously inspire your members to pursue with fervor the promotion of more innovative ways and measures that will lead to a sound and healthy Philippines.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

My sincerest felicitation to Yakult Philippines, Inc. on your 24th Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention on November 16, 2002 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

The City Government of Manila is cognizant of the significant contributions Yakult has made to the lives of our people, aptly expressed in your theme, "Proper Digestion, Good Health, Long Life." This speaks well of your sincere commitment to provide healthy and affordable products for the benefit and welfare of all, especially the needy.

There's no gainsaying that your esteemed company, as well as your independent dealers nationwide, have greatly contributed in generating economic opportunities for your Yakult Ladies, who tirelessly go around, promoting healthy products to every nook and cranny. I salute you all!

The City of Manila joins you in giving recognition to the Yakult Family. Best wishes on your convention and more power to Yakult.

MABUHAY!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor

My warmest greetings to all Yakult Ladies Dealers and participants of the 24th Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention with the theme: "Proper Digestion, Good Health, Long Life."

Your theme for this year's gathering reflects the value we must put on all our deliveries to all our customers to improve their health.

In this rapidly changing world we must aligned ourselves to focus on public interest with sincerity, efficacy and noble motives.

I hope this gathering will pave the way for the creation of effective delivery of value health throughout the Philippines and will motivate you all to reach greater height and success. May your efforts be duplicated by others as that we can further strengthen our sales.

My congratulations to all the awardees for their exceptional performance in achieving their goals. Our programs have shown that indeed, the human resource is the most important asset of any organization.

Let us continue doing our share in building a strong Yakult Lady system.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

J. VICTORY R. DY SUN
President
Yakult Philippines, Inc.

Excellent Yakult Ladies

Superior Yakult Ladies

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Yakult Philippines celebrates 24 years of good health

"A good digestive flora is the key to good health", thus is the philosophy of Dr. Minoru Shirota, discoverer of *Lactobacilli casei Shirota strain*, the basic active ingredient in the No. 1 fermented milk product, YAKULT.

Yakult was first introduced in Japan in 1935 and has now reached over 23 countries worldwide.

In the Philippines, Filipinos have been enjoying the health benefits of Yakult since 1978. For the past 24 years, Yakult Philippines, Inc. (YPI) has been steadfast in its commitment in promoting and providing good health to millions of Filipinos through the proven scientific use of friendly microorganisms found in Yakult. All efforts of YPI in producing this product are guided by its principle that is **to promote the good health of Filipino people. A healthy people build a strong and progressive nation.**

Consistent with this principle, Yakult Philippines, Inc. continues to educate the Filipino consumers on the healthful benefits of the LACTOBACILLI. YPI highly recommends Yakult to both adults and children. As it expands its market coverage from Aparri to Sulu, YPI remains firm in putting emphasis in good health through proper digestion.

As Yakult promotes healthful way of life, it gives importance to more personal contact and clearer understanding of its customers through the use of the **Yakult Lady System**. Yakult is distributed throughout the country by a professional, team of highly trained women whom we fondly call as the Yakult Ladies. A Yakult Lady delivers good health health right at the doorsteps of every home within their assigned sales areas. She is not only a sales personnel but a health consultant as well with her constantly updated knowledge in the beneficial effects of Yakult's main ingredient. A Yakult Lady knows the psyche of her customers because she is always one with them. Mutual trust is what nurtures her relationship with her customers.

Since its inception in 1978, YPI is also involved proactively in supporting numerous sports activities and community projects such as the GMA Foundation's Feeding Program, the Philippine Red Cross, and the annual Yakult Marathon. YPI is very proud to be one of the major partners of the Department of Health in its grassroots programs. Because of its outstanding civic mindedness, YPI has been receiving numerous awards and citations from different government agencies and non-government agencies alike.

As Yakult Philippines, Inc. marks its 24th year in the country, it is, more than ever, committed to provide quality family health drink and promote good health to Filipinos.

A Yakult Lady speaks
'promotion of good health, commitment to service'

They roam around town wearing green uniform with its green fisherman's hat, pushing carts loaded with healthy Yakult drinks unmindful of the heat or the rain. In spite of the day's weather condition, one thing you will not miss to see on them are the bright smiles. These smiles have been the trademark of Yakult Ladies aside from the green uniform.

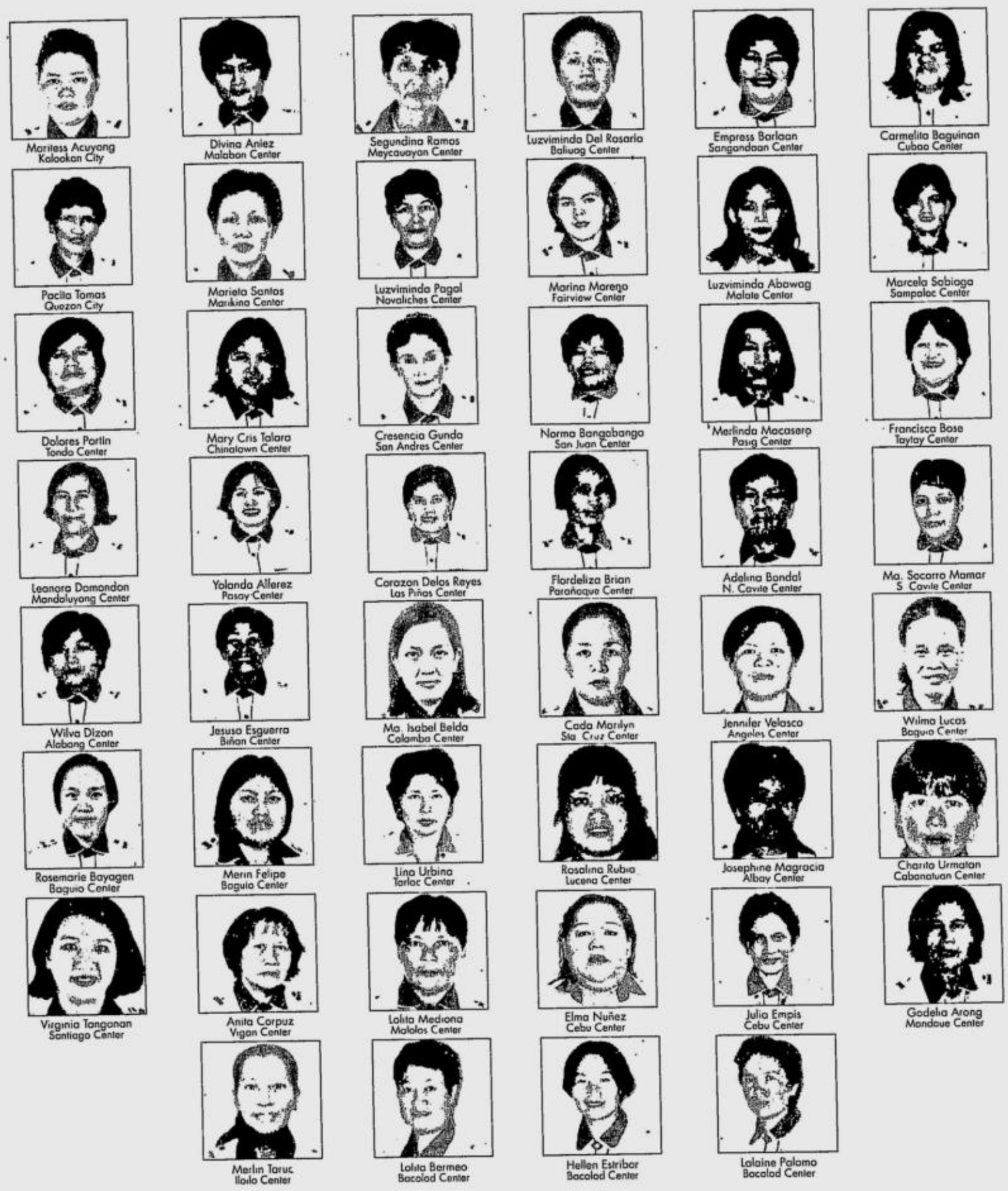
You're probably wondering what goes on in a Yakult Lady's day. *Yakult Lady* **Lolita Limpin** or simply *Ate Limpin* is what you'll probably call as a veteran in the business. For almost 20 years of being a Yakult Lady - and a successful one at that --- Ate Limpin continually promotes Yakult and its health benefits to a number of people.

You'll think that Yakult Ladies are just there to sell Yakult. Few people know that they undergo rigorous training. In fact, they are ambassadors of Yakult. Yakult Ladies are educated on the health benefits of the product. To be a Yakult Lady, one has to be at least 24 years old and a high school graduate. But these are just the basic requirements. One has to be dedicated, responsible, and hardworking. Ate Limpin is the epitome of a Yakult Lady.

One thing comes to mind as you listen to Ate Limpin and hear her speak: contentment. Ate Limpin said that she was able to support her family through her rebates in Yakult. Her four children are now all grown up and have stable jobs. Aside from that, Ate Limpin was able to travel to other parts of the Philippines and, as well as, other Asian countries such as Japan, Hong Kong, and Korea due mainly because of her commitment to her job. She received numerous awards for her outstanding dedication reflected on the number of Yakult bottles she sells each day. This year, Ate Limpin is awarded the highest accolade as one of the *"Excellent Yakult Ladies."*

As Ate Limpin sings the Yakult song, happiness is etched on her face - from her bright smile to the brilliance in her eyes - happiness that comes from the heart because she helps promote good health to people through her commitment to service as a Yakult Lady.

Outstanding Yakult Ladies



Best Center of the Year

Fairview Center's staff and Yakult Ladies under the stewardship of Ms. Esmeralda Orit, Region Supervisor, and Mr. Alteo Martinez, Sales Manager of Yakult Marketing Corp. in a victory pose for being the "Best Center of the Year" this 2002.

Best Distributor of the Year

Baguio Center

Biomate Corporation of the City of Pines, Baguio City, received the "Best Provincial Distributor of the Year" award under the strong leadership of Ms. Lani M. Franco, Jr. Asst. Manager, with the help of its local staff and of course the undying support and help of its Yakult Ladies.

Ok ka ba tiyan?

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1461 Agoncillo Street corner Escoda Street, Ermita, Manila
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4	HARRY POTTER
5	SEX FILES
6	HARRY POTTER

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NOV. 13,14,16 R- TIME 8:50, 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 PM
NOV. 18, 19, 2002 R- TIME 5:20, 8:10, 11:00. PM

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	ENOUGH

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3	MASARAP NA PUGAD
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (10:00)	HARRY POTTER
4	TWO TIMER
5	SEX FILES
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7 (12:15)	HARRY POTTER
8 (10:00)	HIBLA
9 (DOLBY)	GHOST SHIP

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	SEX FILES
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4 (10:00)	HARRY POTTER
5	TWO TIMER
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (2:15)	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	HARRY POTTER
9	THE TRANSPORTER

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	SEX FILES
2 (10:00)	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (1:15)	HARRY POTTER
4 (4:15) DOLBY	HARRY POTTER
5	HIBLA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (7:15)	HARRY POTTER
4	SEX FILES
5 (10:00)	HARRY POTTER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	HARRY POTTER

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HIBLA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TWO TIMER
Lords	MASARAP NA PUGAD
Jennet	SEX FILES

MARIKINA
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HIBLA
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	CHANGING LANES

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	MASARAP NA PUGAD
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SEX FILES

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 ; 879.2029

1	HIBLA
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD

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1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (10:00)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
5 (7:15)	THE TRANSPORTER
6	SEX FILES
7	GHOST SHIP

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 ; 534.2198

1	SEX FILES
2	HIBLA
3 (7:15)	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HIBLA
2 (10:00)	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
3 (7:15)	HARRY POTTER
4	HIBLA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SEX FILES
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECK VS SEVER
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4 (7:15)	HARRY POTTER

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2 (DTS)	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (10:00)	KAILANGAN KITA
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 (7:15)	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4	SEX FILES
BUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS	

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	POSSESSION
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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3	HIBLA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HARRY POTTER

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3 (OTSEES)	HARRY POTTER
4	PLUTO NASH

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8	GHOST SHIP

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 -7161416

1	HIBLA
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	MASARAP NA PUGAD
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	CHANGING LANES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2	TWO TIMER
3	TRANSPORTER
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	HIBLA
10	GHOST SHIP
11	SEX FILES
12	MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	HARY POTTER 2
7	CHANGING LANES
8	GHOST SHIP
9	HARY POTTER 2
10	HARY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	KAILANGAN KITA

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	GHOST SHIP
7	SEX FILES
8	HIBLA
9	CHANGING LANES
10	HARRY POTTER 2
11	KAILANGAN KITA
12	MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HIBLA
4	HIBLA
5	TRASNPORTER
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	GHOST SHIP
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASARAP NA PUGAD
6	SEX FILES
7	HIBLA
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY CEBU 2313876

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	SEX FILES
7	KAILANGAN KITA
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY ILOILO 3209422

1	SEX FILES
2	CLOSED
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	CLOSED
8	RED DRAGON

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HIBLA
5	SEX FILES
6	KAILANGAN KITA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY DAVAO 2976998

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	CHANGING LANES

SM BICUTAN

1	WATCH OUT
2	FOR THE
3	OPENING ON
4	NOVEMBER 29, 2002

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	INTERSTATE 60
3	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER 2

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10:00 FS/10:20 MF/1:30/4:40/7:50/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:50 END

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
12:20 FS/12:50 MF/4:00/7:10/
10:00 LFS/10:20 LMF/1:10 END

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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4 GHOST SHIP
5 HIBLA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
7 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
8 KAILANGAN KITA
9 SEX FILES
10 THE TRANSPORTER

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2 TRAPPED
3 KAILANGAN KITA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5 HIBLA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 SEX FILES
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4 THE TRANSPORTER
5 HIBLA
6 KAILANGAN KITA
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
8 MASARAP NA PUGAD

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 THETRANSPORTER
4 GHOST SHIP
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6 KAILANGAN KITA
7 MASARAP NA PUGAD
8 HIBLA

Malabon Citisquare 285- 7671 / 7675

1 HIBLA
2 OPENS NOV. 27- DIE ANOTHER DAY
3 OPENS NOV. 20- GISING NA SI ADAN
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 / 961- 5318 / 5270

HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 HIBLA
5 SEX FILES
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 SEX FILES
6 HIBLA

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3 KAILANGAN KITA
4 BEDTIME STORIES
5 "0"
6 FRAILTY

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3 HIBLA
4 KAILANGAN KITA
5 SEX FILES
6 DALAGINDING

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OPENS NOV. 20

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Stolen Summer by writer/director Pete Jones is the winner of the amateur filmmaking competition Project Greenlight. Kevin Pollak, Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy and child actor Max Weinberg stars in the story about a Catholic boy and a Jewish boy. When the Jewish boy finds out he's dying, he works with his friend to figure out how he can make sure he gets into heaven.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

Araneta Center

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KAILANGAN KITA
Ali 2	HIBLA
Ali 3	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 4	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 5	TRANSPORTER
Ali 6	SEX FILES
Ali 7	GHOST SHIP
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	HIBLA
Farmers 2	HARRY POTTER 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
NOV. 16	AMBROSETTI CONCERT
NOV. 17	PBA GAMES
Nov. 18,20,22	BAKBAKAN-NAT'L 7 STAG DERBY
ELEPHANT WORLD	
NOV. 16	10:00 AM / 5:00 PM / 7:00 PM
NOV. 17	3:00 PM / 5:00 PM
NOV. 18	10:00 AM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIGLANG LIKO / "O"
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	SEX & ZEN / SUGAT
ROBEN	HIBLA
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	WINDTALKERS / HIGH EXPLOSIVES
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	MASARAP NA PUGAD
REMAR	HIBLA
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIBLA
B	SEX FILE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SEX FILES
CINEMA-2	TWO TIMER
CINEMA-3	KAILANGAN KITA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHANGING LANES
CINEMA-6	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
CINEMA-8	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-12	HIBLA
CINEMA-14	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-15	KAILANGAN KITA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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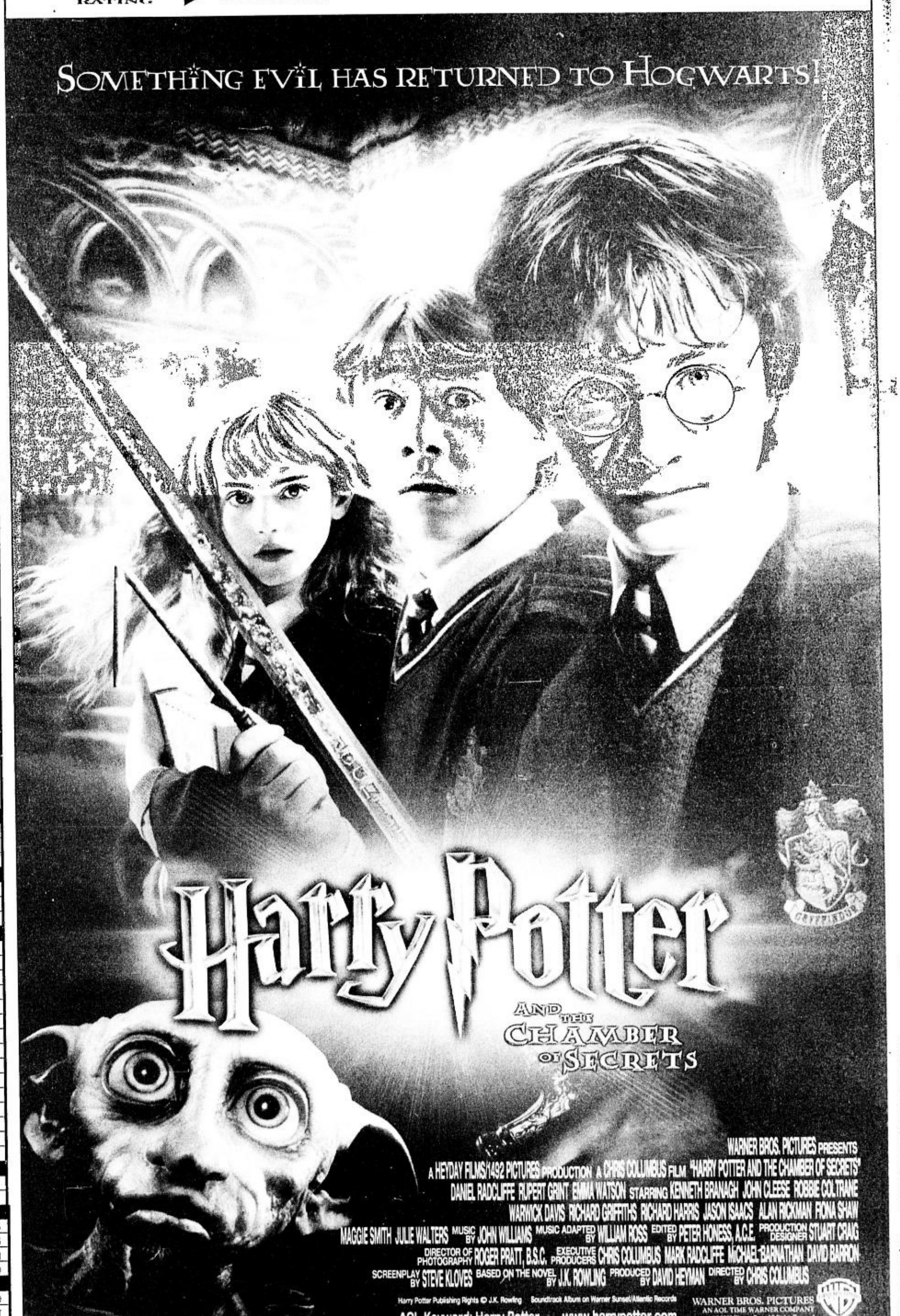

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HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 10:30,1:40,4:50,8:00	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:50,3:00,6:10,9:20
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:10,2:20,5:30,8:40	KAILANGAN KITA P13 12:40,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 1:10,4:20,7:30,10:40

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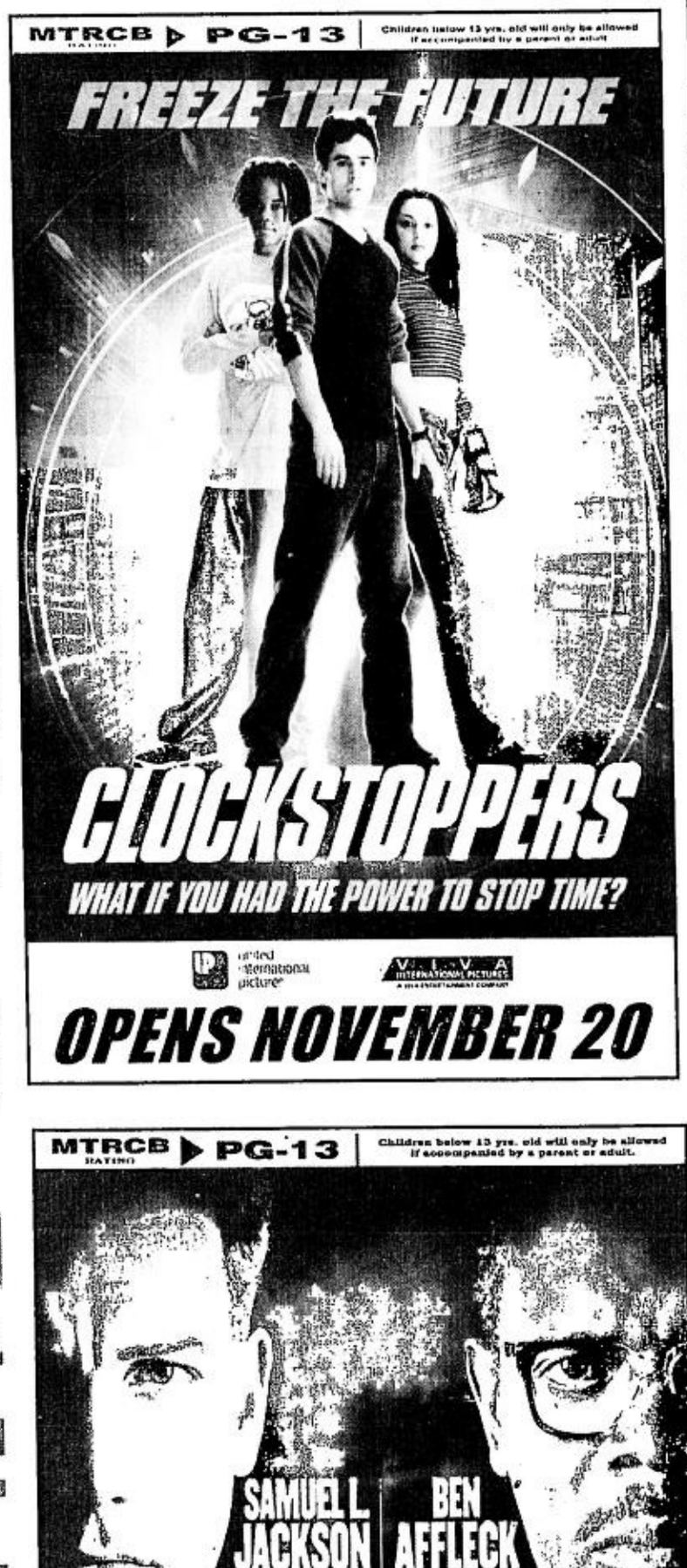
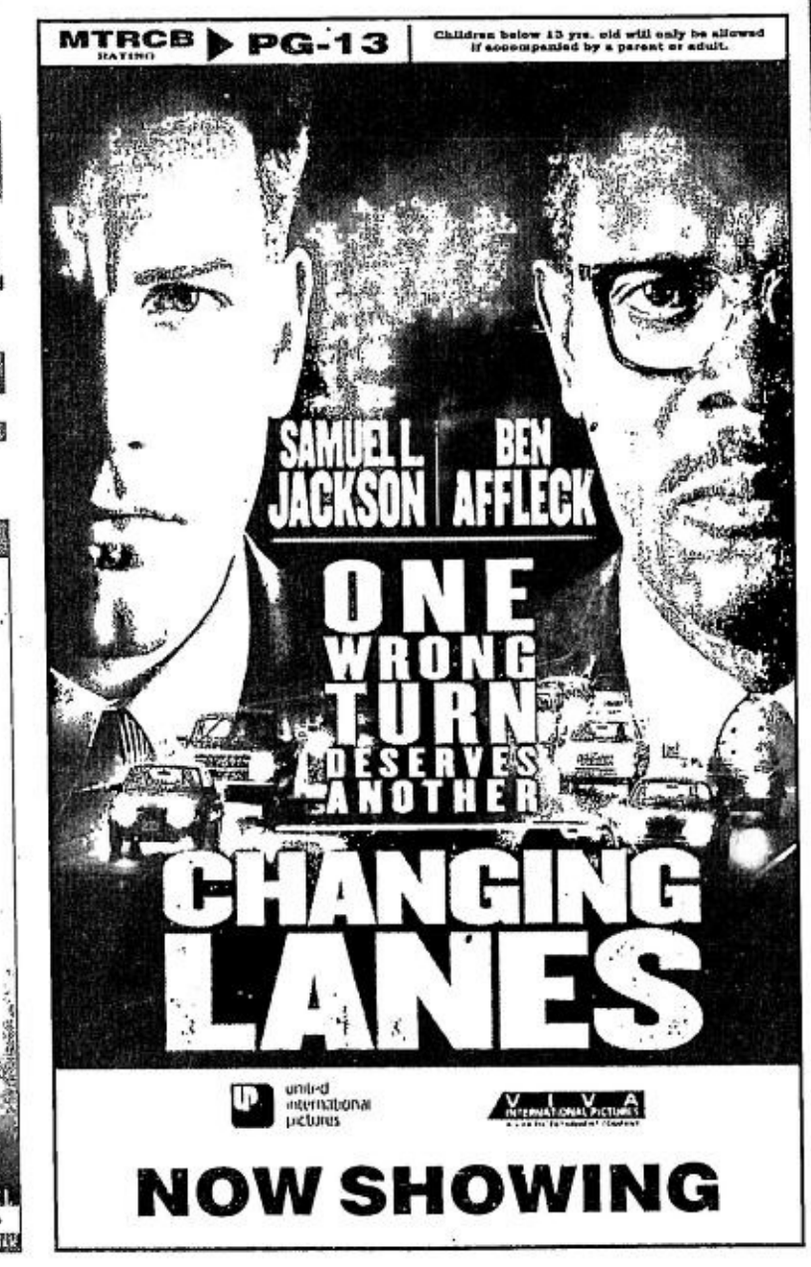


SECOND WEEK



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1 HIBLA	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS / HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	PIÑERO (Exclusive) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
KAILANGAN KITA	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 1:20, 4:40, 8:00, 11:20	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 1:30, 4:50, 8:10, 11:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	SWEET HOME ALABAMA / HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7,13-14, 20-21, 27-28	CHANGING LANES 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 / HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 2:10, 5:30, 8:50	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS / HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS / KAILANGAN KITA		HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30	KAILANGAN KITA

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October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
Cirque Lounge Halloween Ball
Alabang
October 30, 4 - 7 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30, 8 pm
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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Freestyle parties with Soul and Smart in Cebu

CEBU celebrated Halloween with soul as thousands flocked to the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and grooved to the rhythms that the Philippines' premiere R&B and soul band, Freestyle, can only deliver. The Pacific Grand Ballroom of the hotel was packed and eagerly anticipating Freestyle's brand of music, as the concert-goers were already cheering for Freestyle to start the party, minutes before the show started. With piqued energy emanating from the crowd, the band had no trouble establishing the party mood for their Halloween concert.

SMART brought the "Freestyle: All Soul in Cebu" concert to the "Queen City of the South", and an unforgettable Halloween was celebrated by everyone in attendance. Jinky Vidal, Freestyle's curvy female vocalist, set the groove in motion with popular hits currently circulating the airwaves such as "A Thousand Miles" by Vanessa Carlton. The band then moved onto familiar ground as they reminisced with everyone through their chart-topping hits, including the MTV Award-winning "So Slow." With the mood in the ballroom set for love, Jinky went amongst the crowd to find a "temporary" prince charming, whom she serenaded and slow-danced with.

Freestyle's male vocalist, Top Suzara, rendered their familiar song for the broken-hearted "Before I Let You Go." They then segued to a hit those who can't seem to choose between two loves, the song "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang." What better song to serve as introduction for their special guest, Ogie Alcasid, who composed the heart-rending hit.

With Ogie at center stage, he not only crooned famous ballads, but also proved how multi-talented he is. An award-winning singer and writer, as well as a side-splitting comedian, Ogie regaled the crowd with his crazy antics and hilarious punch lines.

Jinky, Top and Ogie brought the house down with a medley of groovy sounds and dance hits that had the crowd up and dancing on their feet. Seats were abandoned and the Pacific Grand Ballroom of Waterfront Hotel was shaking as the crowd partied the night away. Everyone was on their feet bumping and grinding in front of the stage, while some brave souls gamely went up to groove with Ogie and the Band. These amazing entertainers came back onstage (after unsuccessfully trying to end the show) and jammed with the audience once more with the song "Happy," and everyone left the ballroom and were in happy spirits as only Freestyle and Ogie can give them.

The joy didn't end there however, as lucky new Smart subscribers got their exclusive chance to chat and pose with Freestyle right after the show. Lucky winners from the SIM Swap Promo held in support of the "Freestyle: All Soul in Cebu" concert headed to Café Fortuna after the concert, where they got to claim their raffle prize, to meet and hang out even for a while with Freestlye.

The "Freestyle: All Soul in Cebu" concert was presented by Smart. A pre-event SIM Swap Promo was held from Oct. 23-21, giving away more than 150 concert tickets for free. Every non-Smart SIM swapped to the Smart 64K Super SIM on designated Smart Wireless Centers and TSI Outlets in Cebu entitled the subscriber to Pick-a-Prize where one could get the chance to win cool premium items, CD samplers or free tickets to the concert.

GMA to grace UST Law alumni homecoming

FORMER Sen. Victor S. Ziga, president of the UST Law Alumni Foundation Inc., announced that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will attend the the 26th Anniversary and Alumni Homecoming on Nov. 23, 7 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Makati City.

Ziga is calling on all UST Law Alumni to attend this event where the Alumni Foundation will be giving a posthumous award to former President Diosdado P. Macapagal to be received by Ms Macapagal. Mr. Macapagal was a UST Law graduate of Class 1936 and was the 9th President of the Republic.

ZIGA

The officers of the UST Law Alumni Foundation are Solicitor General Alfredo L. Benipayo, chair; Ziga, president; lawyer Roman Mabanta Jr., immediate past president; Supreme Court Justice Angelina S. Gutierrez, 1st VP; Judge Felix De Guzman, 2nd VP; lawyers Raul Corro, 3rd VP; Aleta Tolentino, treasurer; Rosalou Lamson, secretary; Elizabeth O. De Villa, auditor; Ma. Elena Francisco, assistant treasurer; Luciano Borja, PRO; Justice Serafin Guingona, trustee; lawyers Benjamin Cabochan, trustee; Salvador B. Lao, trustee; RTC Judge Monina Zenarosa, trustee; Sandiganbayan Justice Diosdado M. Peralta, trustee; Court of Appeals Associate Justice Chair Bernardo Abesamis, trustee, and RTC Judge Oscar Herrera Jr., trustee.

This year's honorees are the Golden Jubilarians, Class 1952; Ruby Jubilarians, Class 1962; Silver Jubilarians, Class 1977; Tin Jubilarians, Class 1992. The respective class coordinators are Rep. Gerry Cabochan, Solicitor General Alfredo L. Benipayo, RTC Judge Jose Paneda, lawyers Thelma Bahia, Ruth Ferrer and Mary Ann Daytia.

New appointments to judiciary to be honored are the following: Hon. Alfredo L. Benipayo, Hon. Raul M. Gonzales, Hon. Diosdado M. Peralta, Hon. Maria Cristina J.Cornejo, Hon. Tita B. Alisuag, Hon. Patria M. De Leon, Hon. Philip A. Aguinaldo, Hon. Maria Nena J. Santos, Hon. Eloida D. Diaz, Hon. Josefina D. Luna, Hon. Rustico D. Paderanga and lawyer Ma. Cristina B. Layosa.

For further information, call Celi Hernaez at 849-2285, 818-6455, Carol at 631-2852, or Nol at 721-7222.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR OPENS BURBERRY SHOP

His Excellency Paul Diamond (right), British Ambassador to the Philippines, along with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay (2nd from left) and Burberry Asia senior VP Claire Chao (3rd from left) cut the ceremonial ribbon of the newest store of the British luxury brand Burberry in the Philippines Sept. 12 at the Makati Shangri-La shopfront. Looking on are Burberry Asia managing director William Ng and Wilfrido Ong, chair of Euroklasik Collection Inc., the group behind the Burberry shops in the country. The Makati shop will feature the latest collection of accessories to complement the original store at the 3rd level of Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

'PASALUBONG TREAT' ENDS TODAY

Dunkin Donuts mascot Starbaker poses during the official launching of the donut chain's latest promotion dubbed as 'Pasalubong Treat'. Consumers can now avail themselves of a dozen delightful donuts for only P120, giving savings of up to P33. This special offer is available until Nov. 15 at all participating outlets nationwide.

BITS Clips

Palm Swap Meet set

TRADE old Palm PDAs for the latest models at the first ever Palm Swap Meet this Nov. 17 at the SM Megatrade Hall Conference Room beginning at 11 a.m. The whole-day event is sponsored by Mapalad, the 3,000-strong organization of Palm handheld users. Mapalad members and non-members are welcome to join. Owners of Palm handhelds can bring their units to any Palm Doctors branch (Pasig, Megamall or Greenbelt) before the event to have them appraised and prepared for sale at the Swap Meet. They can also bring their units on the day of the Swap Meet and have it priced there. Owners can opt to sell their units at a price lower than that determined by Palm Doctors to make them more saleable. Once the units are sold, owners can claim the cash and special discount coupons, which they can use to purchase new Palm handhelds and accessories. For more details, visit www.mapalad.org or e-mail ercham@skyinet.net.

Historic Butuan in Manila

IN ITS bid to become the premiere historic destination, Butuan City sets its sails to Manila and participates in the 2002 Philippine Travel Mart at the SM Megamall from Nov. 22 to 24. The city government of Butuan, through the City Tourism Office and The Butuan City Tourism Council, tapped the creative expertise of Execom multimedia productions and advertising to execute this year's interactive booth showcasing the unique sights, sounds and taste of the city. Come and experience the best of Historic Butuan. For more information, call the CTO at (085)342-5601 and look for Vangie, or call Execom at (085)342-2448 and look for Owen.

St. Catherine's Academy '79 reunion

THE ALUMNI Batch '79 of St. Catherine's Academy will hold its 23rd reunion on Nov. 30, 4 p.m., at Bernadette Aquino's residence at 309 Quirino Street, Admiral Village, Tikling, Taytay, Rizal. For details, call Ydette Aquino, 658-5011, Alice Dolores, 630-2459, Enrico Leongson, 697-2321, Ruth Morales, 0919-4658673, and Girlie Sanchez, 657-8446.

La Salle golf tourney kicks off

THE DE LA Salle Alumni Association plans a series of golf tournaments. The first is the "Green and White All La Salle Golf Tournament". This event is hosted by the College of Liberal Arts Chapter on Monday, Nov. 25 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club. A ceremonial tee-off led by Bro. J. Benedict, FSC, VP Emeritus for development and alumni affairs and DLSAA president Lito Tanjuatco will be underway at 6:30 a.m. For details, call the DLSAA office at 523-6158, 526-5612, or Franco Del Rosario at 0917-5374435.

Buklod ng Pag-Ibig anniversary

THE BUKLOD ng Pag-Ibig Catholic Charismatic Community under Bishop Federico Escaler SJ, DD, celebrates its 30th anniversary with a weeklong series of activities from Nov. 18 to 24. This kicks off with a Thanksgiving Mass at 6 p.m. on Nov. 18 at St. Paul's College, to be concelebrated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Bishop Escaler, Fr. Romeo Integan SJ, Fr. Nick Cruz SJ, Fr. Orly Guzman, SVD and Fr. Simon Reyes SJ. This will be followed by Concert Inggo 1587, a concert by the singing Dominican priests. Tickets are available at the gate. There will also be a grand reunion of the BNP alumni on Nov. 24 at Albergus Restaurant, Capitol Hills, Quezon City at 1:30 p.m. All BNP alumni are invited. Call the BNP Healing Center at 732-3421, or visit the Center at 3 Don Ramon Street, Talayan for further details.

Grand opening day at Chester Place

STATELAND Investment Corp. will be having its grand opening day of its newest quality community development, Chester Place today, 8:30 a.m. onwards to present the ongoing developments of the project at the site. Special introductory discounts and surprise bonuses await buyers who will reserve on that day. The first 50 respondents who will confirm to join the tripping by calling 244-6818 shall receive free gifts from Stateland. Chester Place is located within the commercial district of Dasmariñas, Cavite having its own private and quiet setting along Burol-Main Road, north of University Avenue. Stateland will present its collection of theme-inspired houses, the ValueHomes and scale models will be available for viewing. Guests and participants will enjoy a day of fun and amazement. See you there.

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Raffle Promo Mechanics

1. Raffle Promotion is open to all customers of AMBIANCE ONE Fine Furniture.
2. For Every Php 1,000.00 (One Thousand Pesos) worth of purchase (single purchase) entitles a customer to One (1) Raffle Coupon.
3. The Branch Cashier will issue corresponding Raffle Coupon after proper checking by the Branch Supervisor. Customers & Accounting Copy of the Sales Invoice will be stamped with "Raffle Coupon Issued" upon issuance of the said coupon. Sales Invoice No. & Branch will be filled-up by the Branch Cashier on the issued coupon.
4. Customers must fill up necessary information on the raffle coupon; name, address and then affix their signature on the raffle coupon.
5. Raffle Stubs must be dropped in designated drop boxes located at all participating Ambiance One stores. The customers must keep Claim Stubs to be presented when claiming prizes.
6. If the customers will make full payment of the items purchased upon the delivery, raffle coupon will be issued after the delivery has been made and after making full payment. Customers must have to present the original Sales Invoice to the Branch where he/she made the purchases and then after verification by the Branch Supervisor, customer will be given their corresponding raffle coupon.
7. Purchase must be made from November 15, 2002 to January 31, 2003. Purchases within the purchase period and subject for delivery and full payment after January 31, 2003 is given until February 22 to consummate delivery.
8. Deadline for submission of entries will be until official store hours of participating Ambiance One branches on February 22, 2003.
9. Raffle draw will be held at Ambiance One - Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Branch on February 25, 2003 at 4:00PM. A DTI Representative will be present during the Draw Date.
10. A customer can only win once. If name is drawn more than once, winner will be entitled to win the raffle prize of higher value.
11. Winners' Name will be posted in all Ambiance One Store branches and they will also be notified by phone and registered mail.
12. Prizes may be redeemed at the respective branch where they dropped their winning entries. Winners must bring their claim stub when getting their prizes. One valid Identification Card with picture must be presented.
13. Redemption of prizes will be within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Prizes not claimed within the said period will be forfeited in favor of Ambiance One Fine Furniture, with DTI approval.
14. All raffle prizes are not convertible to cash nor can be exchanged with other items.
15. Twenty (20%) Tax will be shouldered by Ambiance One Fine Furniture.
16. Employees of Ambiance One Fine Furniture, Brand Image and Ambiance One Suppliers and their relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

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20,000 - 29,999 = 2 draws
30,000 - 39,999 = 3 draws
and for every Php 10,000 purchase increment, customers gets and (1) additional chance to draw from the PICK-A-PRICE box.
Example: Single purchase of Php 60,000 = 6 draws
3. After making the full payment for items purchased, Branch Supervisor will determine the number of draws the customers is entitled.
4. Customers will draw from the Pick-a-Prize draw box and then present the stub to the Branch Supervisor.
Branch Supervisor will then affix his/her signature on the stub and instruct the Branch Releasing Clerk to include the prize on the items to be released to the customer.
5. If the customers will make full payment of the items purchased upon delivery, they can only draw from the pick-a-prize box after the delivery has been made and payment received. Customers must have to present the original Sales Invoice to the Branch where he/she made the purchases and then after verification by the Branch Supervisor, customer can already draw from the Pick-a-Prize box.
6. Promo period is from November 15, 2002 to January 31, 2003. Transactions closed during the promo period and subject for full payment upon delivery after January 31, 2003 will be given until February 22, 2003 to consummate delivery and to draw from our Pick-A-Prize box at the branch where they made their purchases. Ambiance One will honor no further extension or special arrangement with the customer after February 22, 2003.
7. All Pick-a-prize items are not convertible to cash nor can be exchanged with other items.
8. Employees of Ambiance One Fine Furniture and Brand Image and Ambiance One Supplier and their relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity/affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

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Cubao Branch, P. Tuazon, Cubao, Q.C., Tel 437-6770
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Ex-Urban exec sued anew for unauthorized withdrawal

BANGKO Sentral officials have again charged former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan with estafa and falsification of commercial documents for allegedly withdrawing P5 million in time deposits without the authority and knowledge of the depositors, former San Miguel Corp. president Francisco Eizmendi and his wife.

The new case, filed last month, is now in the sala of Judge Delia Panganiban of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The first case, filed in June 2000, was dismissed early this year by Judge Napoleon Inoturan of the Makati RTC who ruled that Borlongan's "withdrawal of somebody else's money did not constitute an offense." Borlongan was not arraigned.

Furthermore, Borlongan allegedly encashed the Eizmendi check on April 26, 2000 but made it appear in bank records that it was done on April 25, the day before Urban Bank declared a bank holiday.

The bank ran out of cash after its management used the bulk of Urban Bank's money in a matter of a few weeks to buy loan papers of an affiliate (Urbancorp Investments Inc.).

In the morning of April 26, a day after the bank management declared a bank holiday, the Monetary Board closed down Urban in compliance with the law requiring the closure of banks that fail "in the ordinary course of business" to meet withdrawals for the protection of existing depositors and those who might want to put in new deposits.

The Monetary Board then ordered the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to take over Urban Bank as the law required. PDIC immediately padlocked all filing cabinets and secured all records to keep them from being tampered with.

It was this quick action by both the Monetary Board and PDIC that led government regulators to build up a case against the accused and determine how and why the bank ran out of cash and failed to meet heavy withdrawals which forced management to declare a bank holiday.

Borlongan, meanwhile, has filed a case of malicious prosecution against Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

LOWER LOANS

Thrift banks' NPLs hit ₱20.6B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BAD loans ratio of the country's more than 100 thrift banks increased to 13.5 percent of total loans in August from 13.22 percent in the previous month, as non-performing loans rose while total loans contracted.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the NPLs of thrift banks went up by 1.97 percent to P20.61 billion from P20.21 billion in July.

At the same time, total loans dropped by 0.15 percent to P152.64 billion in August from P152.86 billion a month ago. Taking interbank loans out, the NPL ratio of the thrift bank industry also moved up to 14.34 percent from 14.2 percent in July and 12.71 percent a year ago.

The central bank noted in a statement that compared with the previous year's level, the NPL of savings banks as of August was lower at 12.27 percent.

In the same period, the bad loans of commercial banks also dropped to 17.58 percent of total loans from 17.75 percent in July.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal and interest remain unpaid for more than 90 days after the due date. A loan is considered past due if it remains unpaid one month after due date.

The coverage ratio of thrift banks as of August dropped to 47.08 percent from 48.22 percent in July as the NPLs went up.

Last year's coverage ratio, an indicator that tells whether banks have enough reserves to guard against defaults, was higher at 48.28 percent, the BSP noted.

The BSP said that despite the deterioration of loan quality, the overall asset quality of savings banks improved as non-performing assets slid to 17.82 percent from 17.84 percent in July.

This happened after gross assets rose by 0.37 percent against a 0.26-percent expansion in non-performing assets. In August last year, the ratio of bad assets was lower at 17.05 percent.

The coverage ratio for bad assets, however, slid to 22.65 percent in August from 22.76 percent the previous month as a result of a 0.24-percent decline in reserves and a 0.26-percent uptick in bad assets.

Meralco foreign currency rating put on watch

HONG KONG—Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said yesterday that it had placed its 'BB' foreign currency corporate credit rating on electricity distributor Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) on CreditWatch with negative implications in advance of an expected ruling by the Philippine Supreme Court that the company should refund customers for excess charges related to a 1998 regulatory decision.

The total amount to be refunded was placed at P28 billion. The ruling is expected to put extreme pressure on Meralco.

The company's financial performance is already weak and it is facing liquidity pressures, which could negatively affect its ability to repay debt amounting to P5 billion and maturing in 2003, P7.2 billion maturing in 2004 and P6.4 billion maturing in 2005.

The company has not made any provision against the potential liability, and its resources to reimburse customers and meet other financial obligations are limited.

Meralco's net income totaled P1.5 billion in fiscal 2001, and its cash balances totaled P7.9 billion as of Sept. 30, 2002.

The placement of the rating on the company on CreditWatch will remain in effect pending the expected ruling.

Depending on the timeframe and the amount of the reimbursement (if any) stipulated by the ruling as well as Meralco's plans for meeting its liabilities, the rating on the company could be revised lower by as much as two notches to 'B+'.

In any event, the rating on Meralco will remain on CreditWatch with negative implications while Standard & Poor's reviews the position of the company.

Contact: Mary Ellen Olson, Hong Kong (852) 2533-3539 Paul Coughlin, Hong Kong (852) 2533-3500 Copyright 2002, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services **Reuters**

ICTSI registers 9% growth in profit to ₱3.6B

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. has reported a 9-percent increase in consolidated net income for the first nine months of the year to P3.6 billion from P3.3 billion.

In a statement, ICTSI said that earnings reported in the nine-month period this year and in 2001 included non-recurring income from the sale of ICTSI International Holdings Corp. to the Hutchison Group of Hong Kong. On a recurring basis, the port operator still reported an 8-percent increase in net earnings for the period in review this year.

The company's consolidated gross revenue for the period grew by 23 percent to P4 billion from P3.2 billion.

On a quarterly basis, third-quarter consolidated gross revenue rose 36 percent to P1.5 billion while net income declined 24 percent to P136.9 million largely because of the consolidation of operating losses in the operation of the Port of Suape in Brazil.

In the first nine months of this year, ICTSI said group volume surged by 15 percent from 800,286 TEUs in 2001 to 925,236 TEUs in 2002.

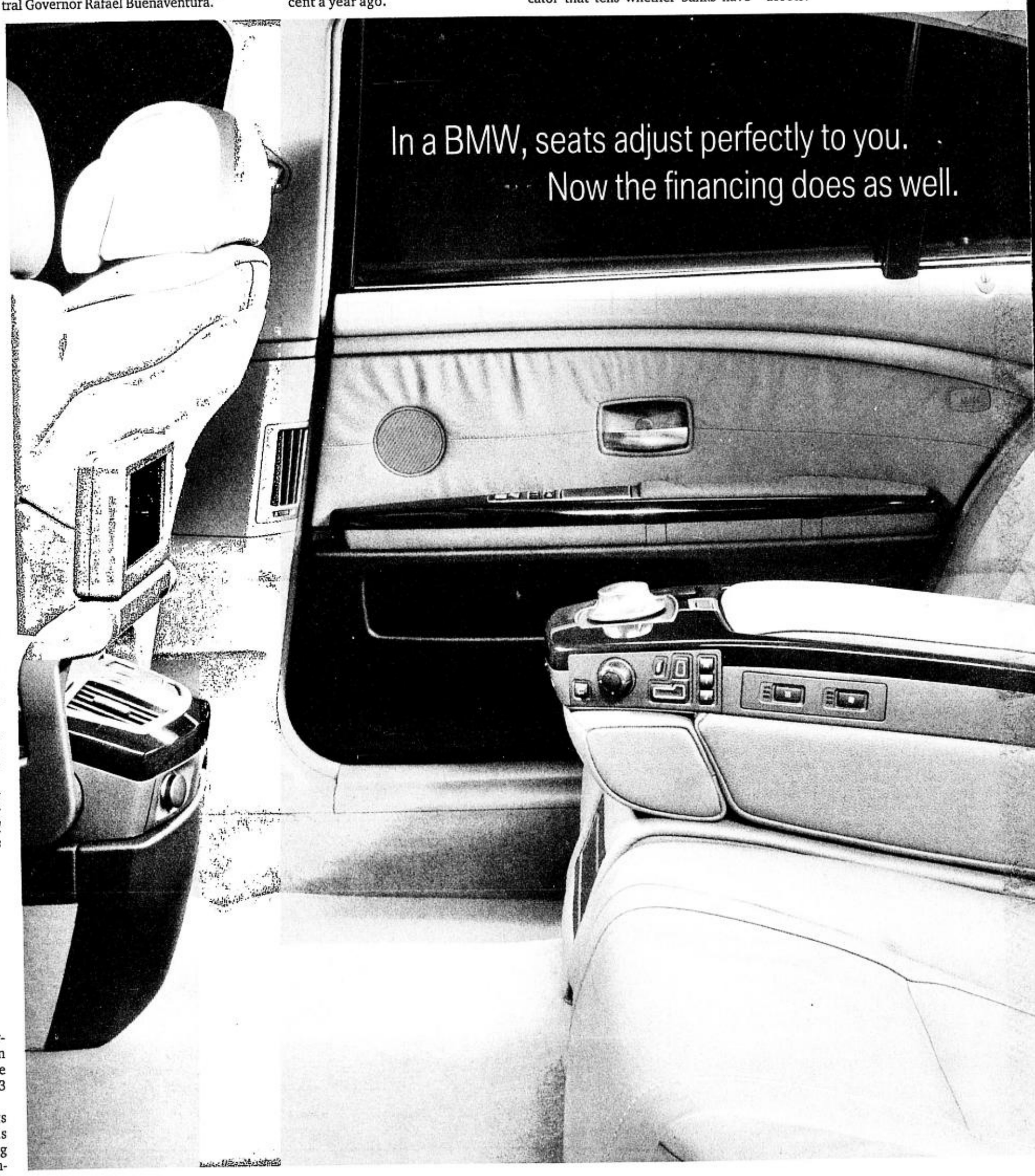
For the quarter in review, group volume rose 21 percent from 283,317 TEUs to 343,957 TEUs.

The company noted in particular the increased volumes handled at the Manila International Container Terminal.

Despite double-digit volume growth, quay crane productivity at the MICT has remained steady, averaging 32 moves per hour per crane.

"Expected to further bolster productivity are the installation of two new quay cranes and three rubber-tired gantries, which were put into operation this month," ICTSI said.

Elena R. Torrijos



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WTO cautions against growth of trade areas

REUTERS

A PROTESTER yells slogans during a march against the Informal World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Sydney. About 1,000 anti-globalization protesters staged a chaotic street protest through Sydney's central business district as 25 trade ministers began their mini-summit.

SYDNEY—The World Trade Organization (WTO) called on Friday for small nations to stay focused on freeing up global trade, as the United States said it would seek bilateral trade deals in Southeast Asia in the fight against terror.

And Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile, hosting a mini-summit of the WTO in Sydney, said the meeting had produced a convergence of views on delivering cheap medicines to the world's poor.

WTO Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi said if a growing number of bilateral free trade deals (FTAs) and regional trade pacts led to the elimination of trade barriers, the WTO would have no objection to such agreements.

But if small countries pursued FTAs or regional accords they might have to divide their time "more delicately," as the WTO round progressed toward the 2003 ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, Supachai told reporters.

"My recommendation is to concentrate as much as possible on the process leading up to Cancun," Supachai said at an informal summit of 25 trade ministers in Sydney.

The United States said on Friday it would seek bilateral trade deals across Southeast Asia to link emerging democracies, vulnerable to extremism, to the world's largest economy.

US Trade Representative Bob Zoellick, who is attending the conference, told the Australian Financial Review a free trade deal with a country like Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation and target of a "terrorist" bombing on Oct. 12, would help cement democracy by providing growth and hope.

"While terrorism isn't caused by poverty . . . there's no doubt failed states, broken societies, extreme poverty, create the fertile ground in which the seeds of terrorism can grow," Zoellick told the newspaper.

"Therefore we have a very strong interest in having a pro-growth and opportunity economic policy that complements our security agenda," he said.

Australia and the United States announced on Thursday that they would begin formal talks aimed at a free trade deal.

Zoellick will travel to Singapore at the weekend where officials are hoping to sign a bilateral free trade deal—the first between Washington and an Asian nation. The Singapore deal is expected to be a model for other US pacts in the region.

Zoellick said the Bush administration wanted to combine bilateral efforts across Southeast Asia. *Reuters*

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Trade officials set to strike deal on drugs

SYDNEY, Australia—Nations rich and poor agreed Friday they must work hard to strike a deal by next month that will provide cheaper drugs to the Third World—a crucial step in efforts to negotiate a new global trade pact, Australia's trade minister said.

"This is not an economic issue," said Trade Minister Mark Vaile. "This is a moral obligation that needs to be undertaken by the developed world."

As 25 members of the World Trade Organization met in a hotel at Sydney's Olympic park, hundreds of protesters clashed with police outside.

Police arrested 35 people after a string of scuffles, among them an Associated Press photographer who was briefly detained before being released without charge.

Police also arrested 19 people Thursday following street protests in downtown Sydney that saw scuffling with police. One journalist was injured.

The WTO is trying to move ahead with a new trade liberalization package launched last year in Doha that was billed the "development round"—a concession toward poor nations who complained they have been left out of crucial trade decisions in the past.

The divide between the world's haves and have-nots proved impossible to bridge in a 1999 meeting in Seattle that collapsed with no deal.

Providing affordable medicines to impoverished nations where people are dying of diseases easily treatable in the West is key to the current WTO talks. *AP*

Moody's raises S. Korea ratings outlook

SEOUL—Moody's Investors Service upgraded its outlook on South Korea's foreign and domestic currency debt on Friday to positive from stable, a vote of confidence in the country's economic policies that helped boost the stock market.

The upgrade makes it more likely Moody's will raise its rating on the country's sovereign debt further in coming months, after lifting it by two notches in March to A3 from Baa2.

A one-notch upgrade to A2 would put Korea on a par with Japan's recently slashed local currency debt rating, a stark indication of the contrasting fortunes of the two economies since the Asian financial crisis. That would be likely to spur greater flows of foreign money into Korean markets.

But Moody's, which also upgraded its outlook for Thailand to positive on Friday, said a further ratings upgrade for South Korea would require additional restructuring.

"Moody's believes that additional restructuring is necessary to protect and advance gains made to date, especially in light of currently uncertain global economic prospects," the agency said.

South Korea's financial markets welcomed the improved outlook. Seoul's Kospi stock index extended early gains to stand almost 3 percent higher at 670.64 at 0435 GMT.

Bond prices fell, pushing the benchmark three-year treasury yield 10 basis points higher to 5.28 percent. The won was firmer, but currency dealers were focused more on moves by foreign equity investors.

"The move will definitely support the upcoming (bond) supply from Korea. Nobody can dispute the direction. Korean credit quality has been steadily improving and will continue to do so in the future," said Lakshmi Iyer, a regional credit analyst at Bank of America.

Despite recent gloomy indicators, South Korea's economy is one of the most resilient in the world. The Bank of Korea has forecast the economy will grow 6.5 percent in 2002, following a 3-percent growth in 2001. *Reuters*

SCIENCE/HEALTH
E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang • Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Red eyes do not always mean sore eyes

By Tessa R. Salazar

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ALTHOUGH most sore eyes cases are viral (which means that, like colds, they are "self-limiting" and would naturally disappear in a week), eye specialists are advising the public that it is important to double-check whether each case is simply viral or not.

Why?

"Not all red, swollen eyes are sore eyes," says Dr. Victor L. Caparas, an eye surgeon at the American Eye Center and an Associated Eye Specialists partner.

Sore eyes can mimic symptoms of more serious eye problems that could pose a danger to eyesight.

You should see an eye doctor when you have sore eyes and your vision is blurred.

Dr. Manuel Agulto, head of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital ophthalmology department, says other symptoms of more dangerous eye conditions, such as glaucoma, can be "hidden" during the onset of self-limiting sore eyes.

He says that aside from blurred vision, another symptom that should prompt sore eyes sufferers to rush to the doctor is when they experience unexplained headaches.

Self-medication

The Filipino patient's penchant for self-medication is dangerous.

"There are times when the medication being taken worsens the condition of the eyes," says Caparas.

The accessibility of antibiotics and steroids in some drugstores compounds the problem, he says.

"Steroids, which are anti-inflammatory, can be dangerous because if they were administered through a wrong diagnosis of, say, a bacterial infection, it could make the infection worse," says Caparas.

"It is very dangerous to self-medicate. It may look like sore eyes, but it can actually be uveitis (swelling of the inside of the eye) or glaucoma," says Dr. Edgar U. Leuenberger, a glaucoma specialist at the Asian Eye Institute.

Agulto says steroids should be used only for severe inflammation.

Epidemic?

Caparas says that during the past two weeks he has been getting 10 to 15 sore eyes patients every day. Leuenberger gets up to 20 patients a day.

Most of the patients come with other infected family members.

Agulto, assessing from what doctors in his department have experienced lately, says "there could be an epidemic of sorts."

The Department of Health, it has monitored a large number of sore eyes cases, especially in Quezon City.

Symptoms

Sore eyes, or conjunctivitis, is an inflammation of the "conjunctiva" which lines the inside of the eyelids and helps keep the eyelids and eyeballs moist.

Symptoms are swollen eyelids, eye discharge, having a "sandy" feeling in the eyes, and, at times, swelling of the lymph nodes.

You can have sore eyes through viruses, bacteria, irritating substances such as shampoo, smoke, pool chlorine, sexually transmitted diseases and allergens. Microorganisms like fungus and parasites can also cause sore eyes.

Conjunctivitis is highly contagious.

It is not transmitted by just looking at the infected person's eyes, but you can get it when he coughs or sneezes. The sore eyes virus can be airborne and a virus present in an air-conditioned room can circulate for a long time.

Sore eyes is contagious for three weeks, says Caparas. People prone to catching the disease are those who have colds or have weak resistance, he adds.

Sore eyes caused by bacterial infection requires specific antibiotics.

Contact lens wearers should be wary of a strong bacteria strain that could damage their cornea, warns Agulto.

He, however, says that the common sore eyes afflicting people nowadays are viral and not that difficult to treat.

Traditional treatments

Some people with sore eyes have resorted to extreme treatments, such as putting body secretions, like urine and breastmilk, or even drops of *calamansi* in the eyes.

While some of these treatments can be ineffective and harmless, others can actually worsen the situation. For example, consider putting gonorrhea-infected urine into your eyes.

"If the source of the urine has gonococcus, one's cornea can be damaged in 24 to 48 hours," says Agulto. "We've had cases like this in PGH 10 to 15 years ago."

Leuenberger warns that resorting to such "traditional" treatments can be a mode of transmitting even the HIV virus or other sexually transmitted diseases. Although such transmission is "very hard to prove," he says that "theoretically, it could happen."

Dos and don'ts

- To ease discomfort, you can apply cold compress on the eyes.
- If you cannot help going to public places, apply alcohol on your hands whenever you touch light switches, escalators or elevator buttons.
- At home, you should also apply alcohol on doorknobs, stair banisters, telephones and other objects that may have been touched by an infected person over the last few days.
- Put an old but clean cloth or T-shirt on pillows so eye secretions would be transferred on the cloth, not on the pillow.
- An employee who has sore eyes but has to report for work should wear a surgical mask that covers his nose and mouth. Hands should be washed often and personal effects kept away from others. Avoid mingling with co-employees.
- Wash your face frequently and wipe with tissue paper. After use, the tissue should be disposed of properly in sealed containers.
- Eye drops and lubricants can be applied. For symptomatic relief of severe swelling and redness, over-the-counter antihistamines and decongestant drops are recommended. Then you should go and see a doctor.

Tessa R. Salazar

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Guide patterned after car manual keeps men in top health condition

LONDON—Men understand spark plugs and carburetors but are reluctant to tackle health issues. This situation prompted medical experts to borrow a few tips from car manuals to produce a new male maintenance guide.

Described as a marriage of men and motors, the Haynes Man Manual which was launched in Britain recently takes a no-nonsense approach to men's health by offering maintenance tips, illustrations and explanations for male problems in car maintenance terms.

Whether it's impotence or indigestion, diarrhea or depression, the manual attempts to use humor and simple language to encourage men to maintain their bodies as carefully as they would their beloved cars.

First aid advice in the manual is listed under Roadside Repair, tips on staying healthy can be found in the chapter Routine Maintenance and digestive ailments and problems in the nether regions are dealt with in the Fuel and Exhaust section.

Impotence, or erectile dysfunction, is an example of an embarrassing condition that men tend to ignore.

If men are not "firing on all cylinders" the manual advises them to "get to your man mechanic (doctor) for a checkup."

Faulty exhausts (constipation) can be fixed quite easily, it added.

To cope with the inevitable effects of aging it advises a regular body service to help keep you running like a Rolls Royce.

"We want to encourage men to get over their embarrassment and head-in-the-sand mentality and go to see a doctor as soon as something goes wrong with their body," said Dr. Ian Banks, author of the manual and president of the Men's Health Forum, a British health charity.

Men read car manuals and they like information that is presented in that way so it seemed an obvious format to deal with health issues.

"Men tend to have a mechanistic way of understanding themselves. They see their body as bits that are bolted together," said Men's Health Forum director Peter Baker.

If the initial launch in Britain is a success, the manual could be expanded to other countries.

Reuters

Needs vs wants

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

(First part of a series)

THIS article was inspired by Robert Full, an integrative biologist at the University of California at Berkeley who, with the help of mathematicians and engineers in other universities, is, in the name of science, placing jet packs on cockroaches.

Yes, you read it right. The man is letting roaches run faster and farther than ever before to study their ability to keep their balance despite bursts of speed from the jet packs.

Some people might question the wisdom of giving roaches more speed, others may simply question the entire experiment. Do we really need to understand why a cockroach can keep its balance? Do we really need to connect the creatures to jet packs that might malfunction and fry them? Will anyone mourn a cockroach which dies during the course of the experiment?

In answer to the first question, Full says studies have so far shown that the roach's ability to keep its balance gives credence to the theory that this is caused by its muscles working with the exoskeleton, and not due to its nervous reflexes.

In answer to the second question, if the jet packs aren't put on the roaches, how else can you study their reflexes?

As for the third, well, that depends on who's reading this article now.

Animals in research

The use of animals in scientific research has long been a subject of controversy.

Most people picture monkeys, cats or rabbits crying piteously in locked cages while scientists hover around them, ready to do all sorts of things to them.

I've been in psychology labs where drugged rats with electrodes in their heads try to keep their feet moving on a hamster's exercise wheel to avoid falling. CNN didn't help matters any by constantly airing footage of a puppy locked in a room and subjected to some toxic gas somewhere in the Middle East.

This is why there are activists who protest the very idea of animal research. And why there are activists who have pushed the notion so far that they have actually gone on to demand that governments grant equal rights to humans and animals.

According to the New York Times, Germany has already changed its constitution to say that the state must "respect and protect the dignity of humans and animals." Switzerland is apparently planning to correct government documents that call animals things instead of beings. And in the United States, the Great Ape Legal Project is fighting to give chimps, gorillas and orangutans, among others, the right to live, the right to live freely and the right to be protected from "intentionally inflicted harm like biomedical experimentation," to quote the group's director Paul Waldau.

Similar to humans

But is biomedical experimentation meant to be harmful? Scientists are not sadists bent on torturing animals to scar them physically and psychologically or to kill them just because they can.

The fact is that animals are used in research because they have similar physical and psychological responses to humans. Studying fungi or single-celled organisms just doesn't get the job done.

For example, a drug for cancer that causes a dog great pain is likely to cause the same reaction in humans. That tells researchers that the drug's formulation has to be changed until it is sure to help the patient, not harm him.

Besides, the alternative to using animals would be to have humans undergo these experiments, and no government, or human rights activist group for that matter, has yet to allow that. (For argument's sake, we'll consider Hitler an aberration.) The ethics of stem cell research are still being debated as it is.

So, animals will stay in the lab a while longer, and help us heal ourselves.

Protecting animals

This is not to say that animals are not protected in the laboratory. Any form of research, be it medical or scientific, involving animals must first be sanctioned by the administration.

And a scientist must answer the questions: "Is the study involving animal research absolutely necessary to save human lives? Is there no alternative?"

The next step is to keep the animals in a controlled environment to protect them, and to ensure the integrity of the experiment.

For example, it wouldn't do to have passersby feed crackers to songbirds when they're being used in a study to see how a controlled diet affects their life span.

Animal rights activists have been known to break into secure buildings to rescue the maltreated animals, causing considerable damage to the premises and often harming the very animals they set out to protect.

So what kind of research warrants animal involvement? Next week's column will look at two different studies, one using sheep and the other using rats.

More good news on RP's science front

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(Second of three parts)

LAST week we looked at five scientific developments recently conducted under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology. Here are four more innovations:

Aid for *gamet* processors. *Gamet* an Ilocano term for an expensive but delicious seaweed delicacy, is more popularly known as nori. Used in salad, omelet and soup, *gamet* is in great demand not only locally but also abroad (such as Japan).

Made from Porphyra, a red seaweed found in the coastal waters of Burgos and Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, *gamet* provides livelihood for hundreds of families involved in gathering and processing.

However, the whole process is not so simple. According to Dr. Dalisay Fernandez of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, "Fresh Porphyra is first washed in seawater and dried under the sun for three to eight hours. Insufficient drying of the seaweed results in moldy products with low quality and value. Moreover, gathering the wild seaweed is a high-risk occupation since it exposes gatherers to dangerous crags and rough waters."

The good news is that to minimize the danger, Dr. Fernandez and her team conducted site visits and interviewed 43 seaweed gatherers and processors in two municipalities of Ilocos Norte. They were assisted by researchers from the Northern Luzon Zonal Center for Aquatic and Marine Resaerch and Development at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State Universities in La Union and Batac, Ilocos Norte. After data gathering, they will conduct training programs for the workers.

Micronutrient deficiency

Food fortification act. Among the many ills afflicting low-income groups is micronutrient deficiency. For instance, a 1998 National Nutrition Survey revealed that Vitamin A deficiency afflicts 38 percent of all preschool children in the Philippines, leading to blindness and even death.

Pregnant women and lactating mothers, on the other hand, suffer from iron-deficiency anemia, thus, they are often tired and ill, and their infants usually have impaired physical and cognitive development. Also mothers with iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) often give birth to children with the same deficiency, which accounts for low IQ. In fact, according to the survey, one-third of Filipino children of school age have IDD.

The good news is that Republic Act 8976 was recently signed into law. Popularly known as the Food Fortification Law of 2000, it should become fully operational by 2004. Composed of voluntary and mandatory components, the program encourages food manufacturers to voluntarily initiate nutritional fortification measures to fight micronutrient deficiency through the DOH's Sangkap Pinoy Seal program, and requires them to enhance flour with Vitamin A and iron, sugar and edible oil with Vitamin A, and rice with iron.

Food fortification

According to the S & T Post, "Food fortification is the addition of nutrients to processed foods or food products at levels above the natural state, in this case, the most popular food items in the Filipino diet. It is relatively cheap. Protecting a child from Vitamin A deficiency through BFAD-recommended flour fortification levels is considerably more economical (P152 per capita annually) than through the large-scale procurement of Vitamin A capsules (P433 per capita annually)."

The Food and Nutrition Institute has already provided food manufacturers with the knowledge and tools needed for this program. For instance, with the help of San Pablo Manufacturing Corp., it has developed the tools to fortify edible coconut oil with Vitamin A. This knowledge has been transferred to Victorias Milling Corp.—this time to enrich table sugar. Iron-fortified rice has also been tested and found effective. The agency is currently working on fortifying condiments such as *patis* and soy sauce, as well as margarine and bottled water.

Fertilizers

Green manuring. Green manuring dates back to the late 19th century, and can now give modern fertilizers a run for their money. According to reporter Bunny Joven, "It involves incorporation into the soil of any fresh and relatively young field crop for the purpose of improving the fertility and composition of the soil."

Researchers from the Mariano Marcos State University, the Philippine Rice Research Institute and the International Rice Research Institute have discovered that indigo is a good green manure crop, producing large amounts of biomass.

The good news is that farmers swear by this, saying that it enhances soil fertility, reduces chemical fertilizer, and increases grain yield. For instance, in a study submitted to the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development, researchers calculated that rice yield in fields used with indigo green manure showed a higher output of 5,444 kilos per hectare with a net income of P21,845.60 per hectare. Compare this to plots without indigo, which produced only 4,197 kilos per hectare, earning only P8,538 per hectare. Indigo green manuring is currently practiced in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union and Pangasinan.

Metal work livelihood program. To provide additional livelihood opportunities for the poor and the disabled, the Metals Industry Research and Development Center recently conducted seminars on spin casting, electroplating, gemstone processing and wrought iron forming.

The good news is that these activities were enthusiastically adopted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, particularly the National Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Project 4, Quezon City and the Area Vocational Rehabilitation Center in Bonuan, Dagupan City.

For more information, contact the Science and Technology Information Institute at Bicutan, Taguig, 837-2071 to 80 locals 2148 or 2144.

Researcher studies fatty livers of Filipinos

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

A "FATTY LIVER" is frequently found during an ultrasound, sometimes even in individuals who do not experience any symptom. The doctor usually just reassures the patient and prescribes no medication.

MEDICAL FILES

"But a fatty liver may not necessarily have a benign course," warns Dr. Taswin Prawira in his research paper "Clinical and Biochemical Profiles of Patients Diagnosed with Fatty Liver by Ultrasound."

"Some of these patients may progressively deteriorate and may develop liver cirrhosis later in life," says Prawira, an Indonesian medical specialist doing further training in Internal Medicine at the Manila Adventist Medical Center.

Prawira recommends early identification of these patients and early active intervention—through healthy lifestyle changes and drug therapy—to prevent further deterioration of liver function.

In his study, Prawira identified certain risk factors that should make one suspect the presence of a fatty liver and a high risk of progression into more serious liver ailments. Among these markers are obesity or overweight, diabetes, lack of exercise, alcohol intake, a diet rich in saturated fats, recurrent abdominal pains, elevated liver enzymes and triglyceride levels.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Obese and overweight

Most of the patients who participated in the study were males between 56 and 65 years, in contrast to findings in foreign literature showing a preponderance of the condition among females.

Prawira also determined the presence of obesity by calculating the body mass index (BMI) based on the patient's height and weight. Fifty-four percent of the patients were either overweight or obese.

Most of the patients diagnosed with fatty liver experienced upper middle abdominal pain (51 percent) or right upper quadrant pain (16 percent), but 11 percent experienced no symptoms. In previous studies, most patients with fatty liver exhibited no symptom and abdominal pain was only noted in a few.

Diabetes is one of the important risk factors for developing fatty liver. Twenty percent of the patients in the study had diabetes and 32 percent had a family history of diabetes.

Lack of exercise appears to be an associated risk factor for fatty liver. Most of the patients never exercise (64 percent) and the rest (26 percent) only exercise one to three times a week. Medical experts recommend an exercise regimen of four to five times a week.

Alcohol, red meat

A good number of the patients were alcohol drinkers, consuming alcohol one to three times a week. Beer and wine were the types of alcohol consumed.

Majority of the patients were meat eaters, which conforms to previous data showing preference of patients for meat, particularly red meat. Only four percent of the patients were vegetarians. A diet high in saturated fats—such as meat, eggs and dairy products—is one of the risk factors for developing fatty liver.

But a surprising finding in this study was that the cholesterol levels of most patients were normal (68 percent). Elevated cholesterol level is a known risk factor for fatty liver.

However, only the total cholesterol was determined in this study. It may well be that if the types of cholesterol—HDL (good type of cholesterol) and LDL (bad type)—were determined, some abnormality in the cholesterol levels might have been detected. (A recent study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute has shown that a predominant problem among Filipinos is a low level of good cholesterol.)

The level of triglycerides in the blood was also a significant finding in the study. Triglyceride is now recognized as a risk factor in many medical conditions. It may not be as big a risk factor as elevated cholesterol levels, but its deleterious effects can be just as bad.

Liver function tests—alkaline phosphatase and serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (SGPT)—are important for diagnosing fatty liver. An ultrasound of the study participants showed that aside from fatty liver, 34 percent had normal-sized liver, 26 percent had liver enlargement, 17 percent had kidney stones, 13 percent had gall bladder stones, four percent had gall bladder polyps and two percent had enlargement of the spleen.

Medical research

Prawira's co-authors in the research paper are Dr. Sunny Tumangday and Dr. Arabelle Lijauco. The paper was awarded second prize in a research contest held recently at the Manila Adventist Medical Center.

Dr. Rudy Pagcatipunan deserves to be commended for the research outputs in this institution. A prolific clinical epidemiologist at the Philippine General Hospital, he has generously shared his time, patience and expertise in guiding doctors in their research activities.

Research is one of the important pillars of any training institution. As they say, research is the lifeline to the future.

We look forward to the day when our researchers could come up with important data that will have a significant impact on the practice of medicine and the understanding of various aspects of medicine in our country and worldwide. After all, the Filipino physician can be world class if he only tries and asserts himself.

(Dr. Castillo is the president and executive director of Charter—Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management—a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation that promotes healthy lifestyle changes in the prevention of many common medical problems. It is based at the Manila Adventist Medical Center. Free membership is open to health-conscious medical, paramedical and lay individuals. For an archive of health-related topics and to register as a member, log on to www.chartermamc.org.)

How to enjoy meteor shower

THIS month brings another amazing show of fireworks in the midnight sky when the Leonids meteor shower comes zooming midnight of Nov. 17. Meteor showers are caused by tiny grains of space dust burning in the Earth's atmosphere, making a visible display of spraying lights.

The Leonids are particularly popular among sky watchers for appearing as a meteor storm way back in 1833. Thousands of people reported watching the sky lit up all night by falling star light. Prepare yourself with these tips from Seven Suites Hotel-Observatory, probably the best place to watch this midnight starlight madness in the country.

- **Get to a high place.** The hotel-observatory offers guests a chance to enjoy this meteor shower on its roof deck equipped with a high-powered telescope.

Plus, enjoy the guidance of an astronomer at the hotel. You can also look down to a beautiful view of the city below. Viewing a meteor shower from a high area provides a clearer, unobstructed view of the sky.

- **Get some rest before the event.** Meteor showers are night events and Leonids will only begin appearing at midnight. There's a whole show to enjoy early morning so it's best to get some sleep before the fireworks begin.
- **Bring family and friends along.** This is not just to keep you awake. Watching meteor showers with others can be a relaxing time to socialize and a chance to share and record observations together. If you can't believe your eyes, then others will certainly be of some help. Some avid astronomers began with amateur inclinations of watching the night sky with friends.
- **Plan ahead and bring your gear.** Remember that people in 1833 were not as lucky to have what we now have at our fingertips. The Leonids then was recorded through different artists' renditions and written reports. Get your cameras, binoculars, telescopes, pens and notebooks ready, as well as some coffee, hot choco, bug repellent, sleeping bag or teddy bear.
- **Wait patiently.** Meteor showers also entail long waits for sometimes elusive streaks of light. List down your wishes while waiting. Pop your favorite CD in the player, warm up the karaoke or do stretch exercises on your lawn chair. The wait will be worth it.

The best time to view the meteor shower will be until early morning of Nov. 18.

About 10 to 20 bright yellow stars will be spotted before 4 a.m. However, expect to see only bright shooting stars since the sky will be bright because of the full moon. To spot Leonids, look east and locate the Leo constellation, which resembles a lion. The meteor shower will emanate from this point.

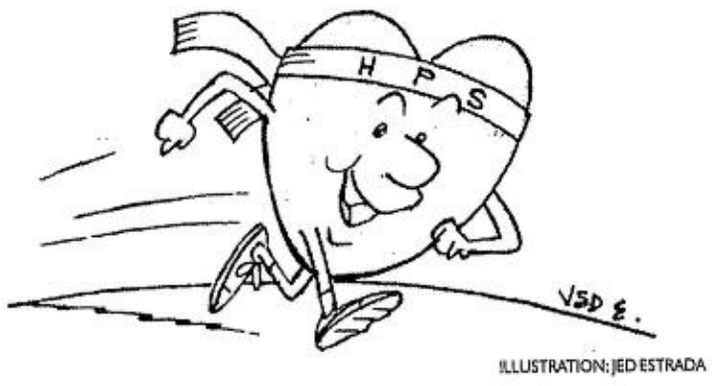


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Experts favor statins in cholesterol treatment guidelines

HEART experts worldwide are calling for a major change in treatment guidelines recommending statins in high-risk patients even if their blood cholesterol levels are just slightly elevated or still within normal limits. It is predicted that the results of recent landmark trials are set to revolutionize the way cholesterol-lowering drugs are prescribed.

Available scientific data published in prestigious international journals show that using statin drugs to lower blood cholesterol levels protects a far wider range of people at risk of heart attacks and strokes than had been previously shown.

According to Dr. Roberto Raymundo, a diplomate in cardiology and a fellow of the Philippine Heart Association and Philippine College of Cardiology, the statins are often prescribed previously only to people who have heart disease and elevated cholesterol levels.

But, with the new findings from the 20,000-patient heart protection study (HPS) conducted in the United Kingdom, he believes that there is now strong evidence showing that statins also cut the risks of heart attacks and strokes in the high-risk population which includes patients with diabetes, narrowing of arteries in their legs, and a history of heart attack or stroke. Simvastatin was used in the HPS.

Guidelines change

"Even those high-risk patients considered to have normal or low cholesterol levels benefited from the use of simvastatin," adds Dr. Raymundo, cardiology consultant at the Medical Center Manila and the Manila Adventist Medical Center. He supports the recommendation that guidelines should be changed so that—irrespective of the blood cholesterol level—a statin is considered for anybody at increased risk of either heart attacks or strokes.

Heart experts worldwide share the same sentiments on the potential benefits from a wider use of statins.

Prof. Sir Charles George, medical director of the British Heart Foundation—the UK's leading heart charity—calls for an urgent review of national and international guidelines on statin use by government organizations as well as by professional bodies.

Affordable simvastatin

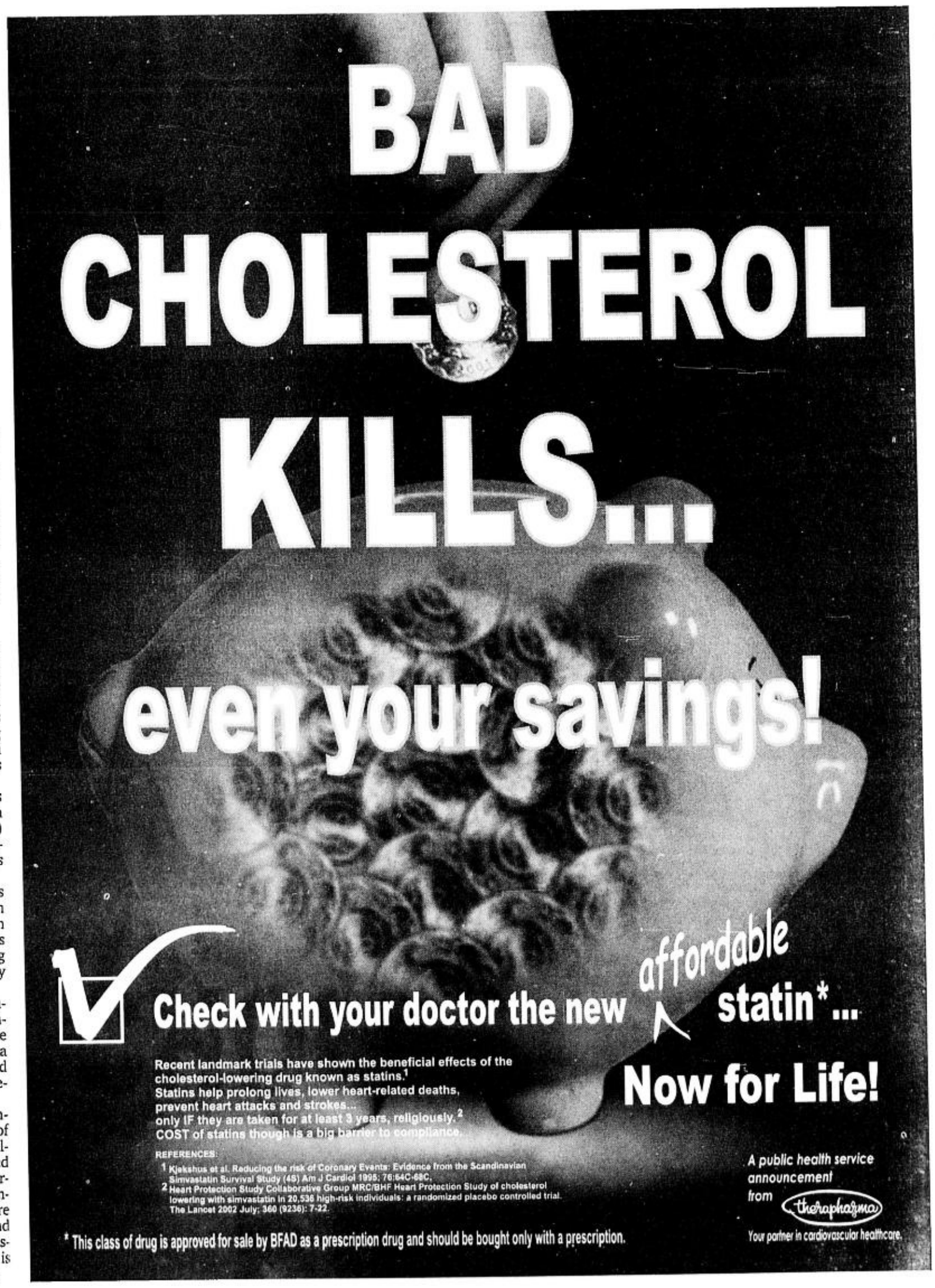
The HPS team estimates that implementing these new findings fully would more than triple the number of people benefiting from statins. However, heart specialists worldwide lament that the big hindrance to optimal long-term compliance with statin therapy is its high cost of treatment.

Local medical practitioners welcome the introduction of an affordable simvastatin (Vidastat) by Therapharma, which can maximize the benefits of statins among Filipino heart patients.

An outline of the HPS findings was presented at the American Heart Association conference in Los Angeles last November. It was published in the Lancet, a leading international journal read by most medical practitioners.

Many believe that the presentation of the HPS in the AHA convention and its publication in the Lancet would pave the way for a review of official guidelines and for doctors to change their prescribing practice.

This could have a significant impact in reducing the high rates of heart attacks and strokes in developed as well as in underdeveloped countries. It would also be important for many developing countries such as the Philippines where the rates of heart attacks and strokes are already high or are rising rapidly, and where diabetes is becoming increasingly common.



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L400m² GSIS Proj 8 QC 5Bdrm L3.7Hect Poultry Antipolo Rizal w/Hse & Office 9298376

CONDO/TWNHSE

LAS PINAS

BF Homes Martinville
420m²@P5,000/m²
very nr Tropical Hut, 1Km from Southville Int'l School
7248147 7237811 7232498

MAKATI

2BR/2TB Direct Buyers only nr. Rockwell 09174056307 • 8704638 7AM-9AM

SALCEDO VILL, Prince Twr
1BR FF Park FA73m², Ed 6871699
0917-8124693 Johnny 817-1154

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

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CONDO/TWNHSE

FOR SALE
Baliwag Bulacan properties
- 3611 sqm- sapang bayan-baliwag river
- Fernando subdivision- sto cristo
  - 431 sqm house/lot
  - 187 sqm lot
  - 311 sqm lot
- San Jose - 5000 sqm raw land

CALL 8096689 (pm/weekend/ 8083610 (ofc hrs) or 09175024942

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

250 sqm 5Door Townhse Near U.S.T. 0917-4149898

PASIG

2BR Crisanta Tower Near Ultra Call 0917-4149898

Condo Unit Along Ortigas Ave. P12.5T/mo. Call 656-1706/1882

ORTIGAS CENTER
RESIDENCIA 8888 (a) 4BR FA184m² FF Park Pool; (b) 3BR FA124m² FF Park Ed-6871699, 0917-8124693, Elmer 637-9121

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR FA46M² 1T&B Balcony S/Pool Gym Rush Sale 0916-5117293

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 2BR 2TB 67.4m² 1.8M semi-furn 4229700

•Cubao 3br P4M up 9126833

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

Fernandina 88 100sqm 5M 3br 2tb FF • 0917-2429078

ReSale Eastwood City Stdio 123BR 0917-4149898

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.64M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIED AREAS

Pine Wood Residences Condominium at Baguio City

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near Libis, Quezon City

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687-7237
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TEL# 913-5223/921-4883 922-4464/913-7632

LOT

ALABANG

ALABANG LOT 11T/sqm 9117143/09174233096 - Shie

TS Cruz Subd. A.Alabang Sd. 400m² 20K/m² 09163822719 Luis

KALOOCAN

BF HOMES Caloocan LA279m² P5,376/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,703/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

MANILA

Castanos Sampaloc 330m² T-9356342/0917-8122984

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P3,960/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P3,833/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25/27

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

GOOD 4 WRHSE/RES. 500 sqm Nr Mindanao Ave. 0919-8416928

★AMPARO 30m²@P2500 nr SM Lagro 4104577

★ AYALA HILLS QC ★
2 yrs To Pay! NO INTEREST
370-740 Fairway Lots

★ Ferndale QC ★
Ayala Lots 204-290 @ P9700 & up Hses @ P6.5M & up Terms near Golesco QC

★ Tierra Pura★
Hses & Lots P9M & up Vac. 230-700m² @ P9000/m² & up
- DON JOSE Gateway to Fairview 420m² P5500/sqm
- CAPITOL HOMES 450/sqm @ P8000sqm with view
BANEZ 931-9117 / 931-9160

★FAIRVIEW 150m²@P5500 nr SM/Robinsons 4104577

•NEAR UP ATENEO MIRIAMI 473-714M² 09175320224 DBO

RIZAL

Filinvest East 410sm 5800m² Near Clubhse Call 912-1442

P100/sqm Tanay 9271821

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

RIZAL

Sumulong Antipolo 3749m²
Good 4 gas station 6391694

The Richdale No. I Subd in Antipolo 4T/m² 6391694

OTHER AREAS

★Various Lot frm Subic 2 Sta Cruz, Zambales pt. 09197437410

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

AYALA WESTGROVE
OPEN HOUSE
SAT. 9-6 PM 0916-6464127

BEACHFRONT PROPERTY AT LA UNION, MIN 1000 SQM. 3,750/SQM, NEG. 0918-9171509

TAGAYTAY LOT 500/1000SM NR. MALL 8443450/8314343

BATANGAS

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

CAVITE

240 Sn Miguel1 Mol Bacoor nr Metro St Med Ctr 9420077

PROVINCIAL

300sqm Carmen Cagayan De Oro City 0917-8977430

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PLARIDEL,BULACAN 2HA OR 1501SQM W/MANGO TREES BENG 931-4466 or 912-4573

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

★SUBIC 48has@200/m²
nego, w/fruit trees 047-9134120

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RESORT

ZAMBALES,Develop Undev 0919-3279260

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

HOUSE 4 RENT AAV 3BDRMS 3TB F/F TEL 8071133 P 60T

PARANAQUE

2 STOREY 3BR 3TB w/ TELPHONE 8253655/09179281862

BLS P'que P11,000.00 pls. txt Marivic Abello 09178920212 or 09178300401

QUEZON CITY

CAPITOL EST 3flr 3br3tb grge w/qtr renovated 4279953 0919-4235801/0916-4418561

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

ASPEN TOWER 1BDRM F/F P45T TEL 8071133

MAKATI

1BR FULLY FURNISHED SALCEDO VILL. MAKATI 8423424

ASIATOWER 8447153 Tracy

BRAND NEW STUDIO
very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/ elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St Mkti nr Buendia Call Rose
8439418 • 5369509

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

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East Ave., beside SSS HQ.
Vacant Lot 2,952 sqm.
Frontage 21 Meters
Ideal for Retail Arcade
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Long Term Lease
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Areas: 970 & 2,100 sqm.
Rent P50 & P70/sqm.
Secured Compound
Flood Free
Vacant Lot 2,498 sqm.
Rent P50/sqm
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tel. Nos: 818-2781; 751-5472

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

MARBELLA I STUD 8220352

MANDALUYONG

STUDIO SEMIFURN 33m² GOV PLACE SHAW BLVD 10T+DUES & UTILITIES 0917-894-4871

PARANAQUE

2BDRM 2TB P10T TEL 8071133 BF HOMES PARANAQUE

QUEZON CITY

BURGUNDY UNIT w/ Pkng P6500/mo. Call Jojo 7121690 / Txt 09193914791

NR ABS CBN 1BR 4167722

APARTMENT

MAKATI

U/D BIG La Paz 10K T5343147

MANILA

3BR near UST 7324499 / 7814814

5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154505

2BR BALIC², SAMP 7136110

New 2BR w/Tel. • 742-1029

MANDALUYONG

HWYHILS 2BR U/D 8212091

Near Boni & EDSA T5310192

PARANAQUE

2BR MNWLK #5275941/5241365

QUEZON CITY

3BR Grge 76 Sct. Chuatoco Roxas Dist. 410-2488, 931-7801

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

Nr SM CITY P4500 9271821

•P5.5T 1BR Proj6 T-9267383

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

MAKATI NR. DON BOSCO 28m² 8.4T 5249234 / 09165172609

ROOM & BOARD

Lady Professionals P2T Cuenca, Pasay 831-5026

Mkt M/F P2.6 up/F/F/Prkg 8906331

New Ladies Dorm Accept Reviewers T-6451185 Nr UST

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Clean/Furnis/Male/ 2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

2sty Coml/resl 13Anonas Proj3 nr Tindalo/QCMC 942-0077

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
Ptamo 38/85/62/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 olc hrs

OFFICE SHOP or RESIDENCE Bo. Kapitolyo 0917-4149898

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Mkt. Studio/2BR 10T up/No Due Free Prkg/H20 Tel/Secu 8906374

MANILA

4Bldg. nrDLSU & 1Apt 8992148

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW 316i 96 Model
680T Neg. • 0917-2429078

FORD

74 MUSTANG T:526-8048

HONDA

2002 HONDA HRV
3-mos Low Mileage Owner leaving Country 0916-3438491

MITSUBISHI

'82 Box Type P48 / P80T 6438927

94Galant VR6 58k km
Orig Own/Top Cond
813-7566/P325,000

'96LncrEL 182T / '92Toyota CrlaXE 157T 09177872830

'97 ECLIPSE 950T 8231928

97 GSR 40KM 300T 7222572

NISSAN

97Cefiro 34K Km
Orig Own/Top Cond
813-7566/P400,000

TOYOTA

97 CAMRY T526-8048

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

97 ISUZU Alum VAN P170T Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER CAR BRANDS

PAJERO SURF HI-TOWN ACE TROOPER SAFARI TERRANO DELICA PRADO MU VANETTE ESTIMA ESCUDO SUZUKI ELF CANTER BONGO PORTER A1 9126976•09178342020 GLEN

SPECIAL CARS

'64Pontiac Tempest 70T 9117657

BUSES/TRUCKS

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P800/L3 9136710/4333682

STAREX MB HIACE 8257135

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URVAN, MB CAR 937-02-71

VAN 4 RENT 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

★WE BUY USED CARS★
JC/ODI #925-9121, 926-4160

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

22T New Compit SR Impld 7767507

CONSTRUNCTION MATERIAL

Semi Automatic PLC Type H-Block Machine w/ Mixer & Sand Screen, Capacity 3 to 6T a Day 650T Cel 0917-8446869

HEALTH & BEAUTY

CHIROFLEX T8708848 Dr. Lim

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YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

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DOG TRAINER 09192050952

DOG TRAINER 4528681

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WANTED TO BUY

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Direct Hire 4752637 MARIEL

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5614990 5638009

HIRING OFC 8518137 TONI

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★
Start ASAP Call 9280996
Direct Hiring Lk Eugene

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★
18-45 w/ w/o exp 6304670 TRIX

HRDSTF BRAVO 01915968368

OFC JOB 09192505572 Chat

OFC PERSONL 2781427 EROLYN

OFC STAF 09192535623 ANDREA

OFC STAF 09196541756 RAFFY

OFC STAFF / 0920-2376718 / JUDE

Ofc Staff / HRD Start ASAP w/
Hi Salary 7812681 Ms. Mary

Ofc Staff 09164380041 Pauline

Ofc Staff 09198241338 Jude

Ofc Staff Call 0917-2789598
Ofc Staff Call (042)5855235
Ofc Staff Call 0918-6556293
Ofc Staff Call 0919-4652467
Ofc Staff Call 0920-5016744

OFCSTF 09193632234 LOU

OFCSTF 5512388 MR. EVAN

OFFICE PERSONNEL 09192535623 GLENDA

OFFICE PERSONNEL 09192535623 GLENDA

OFFICE PERSONNEL 09192535623 GLENDA

PROMO GIRLS 527-1590

WANTED: **CHIEF COOK** for Conference Groups stay in Villa Lamia Hotel Baguio 0917-4364761•8908605 for appointment Mrs. Aboy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given on execution of extrajudicial settlement of the estate of SALVADOR ABUEG as per Doc 94, Page 20, Book XXVIII, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Pio Kenneth Dasal.
(PDI-Nov. 16, 23 & 30, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the DDB (S2) Lic. #7955R01-596 under the name of Dr. Celesta Aida G. Gali was lost.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RIGHTS FOR SALE

Bar & Restaurant GOOD location, parking space Paranaque Contact CP#0918-5144915

BUSINESS FOR SALE

IcePlant 32tons 10m neg. Narra, Palawan. Owner leaving 8109974 09164475660

NOTICE OF LOSS

The following were lost last October 25, 2002 owned by Mr. Jay Peña Son

Driver's License, Alien Certificate of Registration (ACR #E044686-Certificate of Residence (CR #265101), Permit to Reenter the Philippines (PRW343922)

Anyone who found it kindly call tu (632) 890-1554, look for Vangie or Amor (0917) 5307685

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SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City
Tel. No.: 2093-644, 2093-645 (Telefax)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : Nov. 13, 2002

The **SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I)** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items for its expansion projects funded by the government subsidy fund:

Various electrical hardwares and equipment

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and obtain bidding documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must submit/ meet the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

1. company profile;
2. list of clients

For purpose of clarification and to discuss the details of the item due for bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 19, 2002 at 2:00 PM** at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before **2:00 PM on November 22, 2002** accompanied by bidders bond in cash or cashier's check equivalent to **five percent (5%)** of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or the bidder's representative at the address above at **2:00 PM on November 22, 2002.**

The Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2002)

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/
ACQUIRED ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

The **HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION (HGC)** hereby invites offers to purchase by way of cash sealed bids on the following property/ies:

	PARTICULARS	LOCATION	AREA (SQ.M.)	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	Four (4)-dr apartment w/ living, dining, bedroom I. 1 unit 2 storey FA 33.75 II. 1 unit 2 storey FA 33.75 III. 1 unit 1 storey FA 18.93 IV. 1 unit 1 storey FA 120.89 TCT No. PT-90396	Lot 2 Pcs 13-003683 Vegaville Compound Velasco Avenue, Pinagbuhatan Pasig City	252	P2,069,000.00
2.	One (1) storey res. unit Three (3) bedrooms One (1) TB Floor Area - 63 sq.m. TCT No. 160652	No. 175(B7 L13) Tangerine St. Felicisima Subd. Bgy. Mojon Malolos, Bulacan	240	P923,000.00
3.	One (1) res. condominium unit Three (3) bedrooms, Two (2) TB W/ maid's quarter/parking slot Floor Area - 169.35 CCT No. 10607-R	Unit 404 Goldhill Tower Condo. No. 5 Annapolis St., Bgy. Greenhills, San Juan, MM		P5,715,000.00

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's cheque payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the property/ies subject of public bidding to see for himself its/their actual condition. All properties are being sold on "as is" basis. Particulars may be obtained from the Project Management/Acquired Assets Disposition Group at the 2nd Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call **752-5326** or **751-3808.**

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 p.m. on **November 20, 2002** at the HGC Head Office, Ground Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL DELOS SANTOS**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2002)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-33-66, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3616, 3615

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested suppliers to take part in the bidding for the **RENTAL OF COPYING MACHINES** as per MWSI standards/ specifications to be assigned at various locations, as shown below:

No.	Qty.	Description	Location	Contract Period
1	4 units	Estimated copies per month = 100,000 copies with 3-operators	3 units – Main Office 1 unit – Arroceros, Mla.	Jan. 2, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003
2	1 unit	Estimated copies per month = 17,000 copies without operators	Program Management Main Office	Feb. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003
3	1 unit	Estimated copies per month = 8,000 copies without operators	Upper Kalookan Sector, Zabarte, Novaliches	Jan. 2, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003
4	1 unit	Estimated copies per month = 5,000 copies without operators	Novaliches Sector Regalado, Fairview	Jan. 2, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003
5	1 unit	Estimated copies per month = 5,000 copies without operators	Valenzuela Ext. Office, Valenzuela	March 11, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) in the form of cash of Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 2% of the total bid amount.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on **November 21, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at Corporate Logistics Conference Room, Basement, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

Bid proposal shall be submitted at the Purchasing Department on or before 4:00 p.m. of **November 28, 2002** (Thursday).

Any change in this bidding will be subject to the issuance of an Addendum to be issued by the Purchasing Department.

MWSI reserves ther ight to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
SAVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI – Nov. 15 & 16, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel#: 810-4901-10; Fax# 818-6807
Website: www.pdic.gov.ph; E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE- GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and participate in the re-bidding for Janitorial Service and bidding for Security Service requirements for the period, January 2003 to December 2003.

PARTICULARS	JANITORIAL SERVICE	SECURITY SERVICE
1. Project Description/Location	Janitorial Service for PDIC Corporate Office & Warehouse involving 8,670 sq. m. located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City & Veterans Compound, Taguig respectively	Security Service for PDIC Corporate Office, Warehouse & Pasay property located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City Veterans Compound, Taguig & 2370 Taft Avenue, Bgy. Sta. Clara, Pasay City respectively
2. Approved Budget	P3,603,240.00	P4,116,720.00
3. Required Personnel	28 janitors	23 security guards
4. Prebid Conference	December 2, 2002 10:00 AM 6th Floor PDIC Bldg.	December 2, 2002 2:00 PM 6th Floor PDIC Bldg.
5. Minimum Experience Requirement	at least 5 years for janitorial and at least 10 years in the business for security services; with previous/current dealings with government organization/agency and/or commercial bank; and employing at least 50 janitors/200 security guards.	

Prospective bidders shall be allowed to bid for only one (1) type of service.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are contained in the Terms of Reference (TOR) available for issuance to interested bidders starting **November 18** to **29, 2002**, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC-Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Baby Quitevis or Ms. Malou Francisco after payment of a non-refundable amount of P200.00 for each service to be bid.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 16 & 23, 2002)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 / 722-1155

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of the following materials:
Distribution Transformers Complete with Accessories, Hardwood/Concrete Poles, Conductors, Distribution Line materials

B. Application for the pre-qualification must be submitted to the PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba at the address given above or may be faxed to telefax number (078) 8226900 together with the following requirements:

a) BIR-VAT Certificate
b) Business Permit
c) Business Registration
d) Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
e) Company Profile
f) List of Clients for a period of 3 years (if applicable)

C. Deadline for submission — November 29, 2002.
D. CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any required formality therein, accept proposals most advantageous to the Cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.
E. Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders either through fax or mails.
F. Additional information may be furnished upon request.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

Note: *For the extension of lateral lines for the following barangays:*
1. Binubungan, Allacapan, Cagayan
2. Alig. Flora, Apayao
3. Sta. Maria, Flora

Source of fund : 2001 National Electrification Administration (NEA) subsidy

(PDI – Nov. 16 & 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Tel. 925-2401

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that **OLD X-RAY MACHINE**, etc. will be sold through sealed bids by the Disposal Committee for equipment on an "as-is, where-is" basis on **November 28, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the Pacemaker Room, Basement Medical Arts Building.

Bid form, terms and conditions and details of items to be bided out may be obtained from **Mr. ZOILO LUNA** of Property Section.

(Sgd.) **ZYLMA M. SANCHEZ**
Chairman, Disposal Committee for Equipment

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2002)

FUNERARIA QUIOGUE
MAIN: 67 Pasig Blvd. Ext., Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 641-7909 • 641-1735
BRANCH: 542 M. Almeda Street, Pateros
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"In life he followed God's light, in death he brought his love for Him in Heaven."

JUAN TANG DY, SR.

(Johnny Dy)

June 16, 1935 - November 09, 2002

Joins his Creator in His Kingdom of Love and Peace

His bereaved wife ***Rosalina "Saling" Clemente Dy****; children* ***Helen*** *and* ***Johnlee Garcia****,* ***Joseph John*** *and* ***Nora****,* ***Juan "Jun-Jun" Jr.*** *and* ***Grace****, and* ***Jerry****; and grandchildren request the pious reader to pray for the repose of his soul.*

His body now lies in state at the Oro Memorial Homes, Rizal Street, Legazpi City where Holy Mass will be celebrated every night at 7:00 p.m. from November 11 to November 16, 2002.

On Sunday, November 17, 2002, the Funeral Procession will start at 12:30 p.m. at Oro Memorial Homes and proceed to St. Stephen's Parish Church, Ligao City where the Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Ligao City Cemetery, Tomolin, Ligao City.

On the occasion of the First Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved sister,

SALVACION L. SIN

on November 18, 2002, Holy Masses will be offered by:

His Eminence Jaime L. Cardinal Sin

Bishop Teodoro Bacani
Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes of Kalibo, Aklan
Bishop Raul Martires
Bishop Socrates Villegas
Bishop Jesse Mercado
Bishop Nestor Cariño
Msgr. Josefino Ramirez
Msgr. Roberto Canlas
Msgr. Jose Abriol
Msgr. Rolando dela Cruz
Father Jun Sescon
Father David Concepcion
Father Isidro Marinay
Father Edwin Mercado
Father Nolan Que
Father Jason Laguerta
Father Joel Jason
Father Ferdinand Santos
Father Carlo Marcelo Magno
Father Estilito Villegas
Father Lorenz Festin
Father Manuel Nery
Father Dennis Odiver
Father Carlos Reyes
Father Maxell Aranilla
Father Lincoln Carabaña
Father Fausto Gomez, O.P.
Father Pompeyo de Mesa, O.P.
Father John Barro

And at the Holy Family Parish Church, Kamias, Quezon City on November 18, 2002 at 6:00 a.m.

May we request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Requested by Dr. Ramon L. Sin

'You will always be in our hearts, Papa'

Pergentino T. Bandayrel Sr.

of Bangued, Abra
Peacefully joined our Creator on November 14, 2002
at the age of 81.

Mama, Minnie, Danny, Zy, Girlie, Jun, Jing, Mario, Weng, Noel, Ruben and **Bobby** request you — relatives and friends — to pray for him, wish him Godspeed in his journey, and ask him to intercede for us in this life.

We will receive you at the Scott Funeral Home Mississauga Chapel at 420 Dundas Street East, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Special Mass will be held at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Mavis Road, Mississauga on Sunday, November 17, 2002.

A Mass will be held before interment at the Glen Oaks Memorial Gardens in Oakville, Ontario, Canada at 9:00 A.M. on November 18, 2002.

Bro. SEBASTIAN VALDEZ NAVARRO

Lay Minister of the Holy Communion and Filipino Inventor (FIS)

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 14, 2002

His loving wife
Ester Lim Navarro
Children
Mary Antonniette, Michael & Leslie Mayor, Johnston & Maricris Santos, Mary Grace
Parents
Atty. Arsenio Sr. and Adela Valdez
Brothers and Sisters
Msgr. Federico, Crispin (+) and Adoracion (+) Ignacio,
Catalina, Faustino and Elenita Ona, Virginia (+), Arsenio Jr.,
Grandchildren
Vincent, PaoPao, Angel, Roni
Nephews and Nieces
Teresita (abroad), Joseph, Francisca & Romy Uy, Alvin & Ainel,
Roderick, Edwin, Cecil & John

Request the pious readers and his friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Ambassador Funeral Homes, A. Mabini St., cor. C3 Road, Caloocan City
Navarro's Residence Telephone Numbers: 288-0837 & 288-7172

Interment will be on November 17, 2002 at the family Mausoleum, La Loma Catholic Cemetery, Rizal Avenue Ext., Manila after the 1:00 p.m. mass at the Mary Help of Christian Parish, Maypajo, Caloocan City

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:39

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

DR. LUIS A. CIPRES

Died on November 13, 2002 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **Lydia**; children **Mon** and **Susan, VJ** and **Ida, Dado** and **Cecile**, and **Chito** and **Bun**; grandchildren **Wela, Sara, Nico, Veda** and **Nina**; and other relatives mourn his passing and request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the Chapel Q, Loyola, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 17, 2002 at the Manila North Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

ARSENIA DE JESUS vda. de MAXIMO

(December 14, 1900 - November 14, 2002)
of Novaliches, Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 14, 2002 at the age of 101.

She is survived by her children **Virgilio** and **Luisa Maximo, Conrado** and **Natividad Sanga, Dr. Venerando** and **Carole Maximo**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchild. Relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel F, Forest Hill Funeral Homes, Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will take place on Thursday, November 21, 2002, 2:00 PM at Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Quezon City after the 1:00 PM Mass at Forest Hill Funeral Homes Chapel.

LIM CHIU TIONG

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 25, 2002 at the age of 85.

His bereaved wife **ROSARIO (Charing)**; children and children-in-law **JAMES & NICOLE, LOLITA, ELIZABETH, SALLY & STEVE, JERRY & FLORADORA, ROBERT & MARCELA, WILLIAM & ALMA**; grandchildren **JENNIFER, STEPHANIE, MARK, GENEVIEVE, GISELLE, ALEXANDER, BERNADETTE, CAROLINE, DEXTER, EDWARD, TIMOTHY, AUDREY** and **TRICIA**; and all relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City on November 17-20, 2002.

Interment will be on November 20, 2002 at the Thousand Buddha Temple, Inc., 15 Don Pepe St., cor. Maria Clara St., (behind Sto. Domingo Church) Quezon City.

*** For further information, please call 374-6302 / 374-6292 ***

Our Dearly Beloved

Esperanza P. Adorio

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 11, 2002 at the age of 84.

Her husband: **Manuel A. Adorio** (†); bereaved children: **Mercedes, Daniel, Rebecca, Leah, Ernesto, Cecilia** and **Robert Court** and **Lynette A. Arce**; grandchildren: **Raphael, Ysabel Louise, Martin, Emily, Gerrica**, and **Gloda** and **Benjamin (J.R.)**, request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Sum-Ag, Bacolod City.

Interment will be held today, November 16, 2002 after the Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Memorial Park.

Isidro "Boyet" N. Ahorro, Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 14, 2002 at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife **Linda**; children **Joel** & **Malen**; **Jolet**; **Jeannie**; **Jo-Ann** & **Paul**; **Jojo** & **Edwin**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel E, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 17, 2002 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park.

PATROCINIO FLORENDO BAUTISTA

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur
peacefully joined her Creator on November 14, 2002 at the age of 90.

Her loving children **Ruby** & **Brooksie, Vicky** & **Roque, Dita** & **Andy, Jaime** & **Connie** and her grandchildren; relatives, friends ask the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies at La Funeraria Paz at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

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First Death Anniversary of

ESTER MAGLIAN RONQUILLO

of Cavite City - UPLSAA - Unesco Paris
Masses offered in the ff. churches:

San Roque Parish
Cavite City ..... 6:30 a.m.
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
Claret, Quezon City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Paris, France ..... 8:00 a.m.
Parrocchia SS. Pietro E Paolo
Rome, Italy ..... 6:00 p.m.
Loyola Marymount U Church
Westchester, Los Angeles, CA., USA ..... 8:00 a.m.

"Uchle"

MA. ROSELLE MONTELLANO PLANAS

Forester, U.P. Los Baños 1994
Member, Professional Top Ten Passers of the Philippines
Member, UP Varrons

Joined the Great One beyond on November 12, 2002.

Her parents **Conrado** and **Linda**; brothers **Rommel** and **Muniel**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at Hasmin Street, San Fernando Compound, Cotta, Lucena City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 17 at St. Ferdinand Memorial Park, Dalahican Road, Lucena City after the 2:00 p.m Mass at the St. Jude Church, Cotta, Lucena City.

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Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
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#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
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Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
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865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
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Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737

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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City; Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
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New China rulers inherit growing economy

BEIJING—China's new leader Hu Jintao vowed on Friday to push ahead with market reforms which have fueled a booming economy, but gave no clues to how he would tackle problems from joblessness to an ailing banking system.

As he formally succeeded Jiang Zemin as chief of the ruling Communist Party, Hu inherited an economy expected to grow by 8 percent this year—an eye-catching performance at a time when a global malaise has struck most major economies.

But analysts said a plethora of problems from joblessness to ailing banks means Hu and his team have their work cut out.

"The whole party and people from all ethnic groups will unite more closely and concentrate on construction and development so as to continue pushing forward China's reform, opening up and modernization drive," Hu said.

Hu's brief speech gave no hints as to how he planned to solve the serious woes that threaten to gum up the high-revving Chinese economic engine.

The problems are legion.

State firms—the money-losing legacy of socialist planning—are shedding millions of workers in a drive to modernize and turn a profit.

China's banks, forced for decades to inject fresh cash into those state firms, are staggering under hundreds of billions of dollars worth of bad loans.

And the farmers who brought the Communist Party to power in 1949 on promises of social and economic equality are finding themselves falling farther behind the wealthy cities.

In spite of those sobering realities, the Chinese economy has been the envy of much of the world.

Gross domestic product grew 7.9 percent in the first three quarters, exports soared more than 20 percent and foreign investment is on track to top $50 billion this year.

So Hu and his eight new colleagues on the all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee are not likely to risk tipping the economic boat by deviating from the slow-and-steady reform pace set by their predecessors.

"In the short term, they are going to be conservative because it's a new bunch of people and they have to get the measure of one another working together," a Western diplomat said.

Reform will still be a priority, as a glance at the rest of the new party lineup indicates.

The No. 2 behind Hu is Wu Bangguo, who has been the point man for overhauling the sickly state sector.

No. 3 is Wen Jiabao, a protégé of Premier Zhu Rongji likely to take over the economic portfolio from his hard-nosed boss in March when the old guard give up their government posts.

However, some question whether Wen's consensus-building style is suited to pushing painful reforms against entrenched interests like state monopolies and protective local governments.

"It's a task that calls for breaking a lot of eggs and you need someone to take the tough steps," said Michael Kurtz, regional economist with Bear Stearns Asia in Hong Kong. *Reuters*

CHINESE cyclists watch a televised introduction of Hu Jintao, who was named General Secretary of China's Communist Party, on a large video screen in Beijing. REUTERS

Strong US retail sales lift stocks

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks surged in a tech-led rally on Friday after surprisingly strong US retail sales lifted the dollar, propelled Wall Street higher and prompted investors to flee the bond market.

Japanese stocks surged more than 2 percent, South Korean and Taiwan shares closed 3 percent higher.

Almost every other market in Asia marched higher with technology, telecom and financial stocks leading the parade.

Tokyo's tech-sensitive Nikkei 225-stock average closed up 2.41 percent at 8,503.59, while the broader TOPIX index perked up 1.88 percent to 839.34.

"The encouraging US retail data gave us a boost, and having hit a 19-year low we were due for a technical rebound," said Masatoshi Sato.

Sato is manager of the equity division at Mizuho Investors Securities.

A 3.7-percent rise in the tech-laden US Nasdaq index and the sunny retail sales data from the world's biggest economy helped big Asian exporters shine.

Samsung Electronics, the world's top memory chip-maker, soared 5.29 percent. Sony Corp. rose 4.04 percent and Toyota Motor Corp. rode 3.58 percent higher.

Seoul shares ended 3.19 percent higher at 672.95, buoyed by Moody's upgrade of South Korea's rating outlook.

Taiwan stocks ended 3.17 percent higher, helped by domestic rate cuts, with technology exporter Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing up 4.31 percent. *Reuters*

Microsoft discloses segment results

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. broke out results by business segment for the first time in an SEC filing on Thursday that showed five of its seven reporting units with an operating loss.

Microsoft's nascent businesses in small business software and mobile devices, as well as MSN and its home entertainment division, all posted operating losses in the September quarter, according to the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Microsoft, which recently started to organize the financial reporting of its business around seven new segments, had not previously disclosed the operating profitability of those divisions, information that analysts and investors have been eager to see.

Based on Microsoft's internal accounting methods, which differ from the figures reported on its quarterly earnings release, the Home and Entertainment division that includes the Xbox video game business lost $177 million on operations on revenue of $505 million in Microsoft's first fiscal quarter that ended Sept. 30.

Business Solutions, Microsoft's new business software division that includes the Navision and Great Plains acquisitions, had an operating loss of $68 million on revenue of $107 million, the company said.

MSN, the Internet service business, lost $97 million while the new CE/Mobility division that makes software for non-desktop PC devices, lost $33 million, both on operations.

The Client segment, which includes the core Windows operating system franchise, was the most profitable with operating income of $2.48 billion on revenue of $2.89 billion.

The Information Worker segment, which includes the Office suite of word processing, spreadsheet, organizer and presentation programs, had an operating profit of $1.88 billion on revenue of $2.39 billion. *Reuters*

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Japan bankers fail to soothe investors' nerves

TOKYO—Officials from Japan's top four banks told parliament on Friday they did not need government help to restore their financial health but their words fell on deaf ears as nervous investors sold off selected bank shares.

Shares in UFJ Holdings Inc., widely considered the weakest of the four banks, hit a record low as speculators played on concerns that tough government action on bad loans could hit its balance sheet.

UFJ's shares fell to 97,000 yen, down over 13 percent, in volatile trade before ending at 108,000 yen, down 3.57 percent.

Mizuho Holdings Inc., the world's biggest bank by assets, hit a record low of 114,000 yen in early afternoon but then shot up, ending 9.84 percent higher at 134,000 yen.

The stock market's bank sector sub-index lost nearly 10 percent this week.

Bank shares tumbled on Thursday after the head of Japan's main business lobby, Hiroshi Okuda, was reported as saying one of the big banks might have to be nationalized if government reforms were implemented strictly. He denied the remark.

Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka, the architect of the government's plans for the banks, on Friday played down concerns about an imminent financial crisis, saying no major Japanese bank was in serious trouble at present.

"Major banks are stepping up efforts to write off their non-performing loans. But at this point there are no problems with their financial health," he told a news conference.

The heads of the big banks lined up at a meeting of a parliamentary finance committee to explain the action they were taking to restore their balance sheets, as well as to defend their independence.

Yoshifumi Nishikawa, president of the second-largest bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. (SMBC), said it should not be up to public agencies to determine which borrowers were viable or not, a role they could have under government reforms.

"The government's role could risk taking the issue in the wrong direction. There needs to be a thorough discussion," he said.

The banks are under increasing pressure to build up their weak capital and cut risky assets after the government unveiled a plan last month to help dispose of their bad loans, officially estimated at 52 trillion yen ($431.8 billion).

They were amassed following the bursting of Japan's late 1980s asset bubble and the subsequent years of stagnation.

Banks' lax risk assessment and uniform lending regardless of a firm's strength or weakness contributed to their current dismal state.

Takenaka's plan included proposals for stricter loan and capital assessments by banks, plus the establishment of a state-backed rehabilitation body to buy bad loans from banks and revive viable borrowers.

The government is due to announce a schedule for bad loan disposals later this month but, with uncertainty compounded by a lack of detail, investor sentiment toward banks has steadily worsened since the plan was outlined.

Confidence in the government bond market has also been hit, especially as banks have been big buyers during a recent rally.

Some operators have argued that banks might need to sell bonds to raise cash to prepare for possible withdrawals by investors.

Since the banks have huge holdings of stocks, market weakness and the banks' troubles have fed off each other.

Further erosion in banks' weak capital bases—from losses on stockholdings or loan write-offs, for example—could pave the way for an injection of public funds. That would dilute share values and could lead to at least partial nationalization. *Reuters*

JAPAN Airlines System CEO Isao Kaneko (center) and flight attendants smile before a newly designed jetliner A300-600 at the company's hangar at Tokyo's Haneda airport as Japan's large air carrier Japan Airlines and Japan Air System started joint operations. AFP

US presses Japan to step up loan plan

WASHINGTON—US officials urged Japan to quickly implement an economic stimulus package that includes the disposal of that country's non-performing loans.

In a statement Thursday following a meeting of government officials and business leaders from both the United States and Japan, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said the administration also "strongly supported early and effective" Japanese action to promote entrepreneurship and attract investment through more business-friendly government regulation.

McClellan quoted John Thain, president of the Goldman Sachs investment banking firm, as saying at the closed-door meeting that he endorsed the Japanese government's financial revitalization plan as a way to "put the Japanese economy on a sound footing for long-term growth."

Overseas, Tokyo stocks tumbled to fresh 19-year lows for the second day in a row Thursday.

Japan has been struggling for a decade with an economic slowdown that has left massive debt in the financial sector.

Thursday's talks in Washington, presided over by Deputy National Security Adviser Gary Edson and Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ichiro Fujisaki, marked the second meeting of the US-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission.

Its inaugural meeting was held in Japan in May 2002. *AP*

Mutual funds see near term pain in China

SINGAPORE—Global mutual fund managers have been bruised in Japan, Asia's biggest asset market, due to high operating costs and a poor investment climate and the same fate awaits them near term in emerging giant China, experts said.

"Everybody . . . wants to believe that Japan is going to be, because of its scale, a most attractive market."

"Is the market attractive from a financial perspective? The answer is no," George Curuby, who runs a Tokyo-based asset management consultancy, told a mutual fund seminar.

"It's very hard to make a profit in Japan for foreign competition," he said, adding that out of the 73 foreign fund firms in Japan only about 10 were profitable.

Foreign fund managers made a beeline to Japan in the past decade to tap a retail market now estimated at more than $300 billion.

But they have had to incur huge costs in setting up distribution infrastructure and compete with local players who enjoy cost and pricing advantages as they are part of the big domestic broking and banking groups.

A prolonged economic downturn and a languid stock market further inhibited growth of the retail market, with the result Japanese individuals invest only 2 percent of their financial assets in mutual funds compared to about 13 percent in the United States.

Takahiro Fujino, chair of Alliance Capital Asset Management (Japan), said it was proving difficult to get the Japanese interested in mutual funds since the wealth was largely with investors whose average age was 60 years. *Reuters*

NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF MEMBERS

To All PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XII, Section I of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members will be on Friday, November 29, 2002 at 9:30 a.m., Grand Ballroom, Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, Bacolod City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice of Meeting
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Business Meeting held on November 29, 2001
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Ratification of Amendments to PICPA By-Laws
8. New Business
9. Elections
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Business Meeting. If you cannot be present in person during the meeting, please secure and accomplish the necessary Proxy form at PICPA Secretariat Office, PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City with Tel. No. 723-0691 to 95, 723-5467 & 726-9452.

ROBERTO G. MANABAT
National Secretary

Note: This notice and other relevant documents have been posted earlier at the PICPA website – www.picpa.com.ph.

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BUSINESS

Industries question delay in tariff cuts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL manufacturers are questioning the government's plan to defer tariff cuts on imported raw materials (not available locally or locally produced but in insufficient quantity) to maintain the current level of customs duty collections and prevent the budget deficit from deteriorating further.

Federation of Philippine Industries secretary general Joseph H. Francia said his group worked very hard for the issuance of Executive Order (EO) Nos. 83 and 91 which took effect on April 30 and May 20, respectively, that shaved duties on select imported raw materials from 3 percent to one percent.

"Many industries are already benefiting from the lower cost of imported raw materials," Francia said in his letter to trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

The FPI was forced to seek clarification from Roxas following news reports that the government was set to shelve one of the two EOs in view of the revenue losses arising from the tariff cuts.

The government is currently hard pressed to put in check its ballooning budget deficit which has swelled to an estimated P180 billion in the first 10 months this year or nearly 40 percent over the full-year target of P130 billion.

Malacañang had reportedly instructed the Department of Trade and Industry to postpone the scheduled tariff cuts over the next two years (except for the Asean Common Effective Preferential Tariff which would reduce duties on intra-Asean traded goods to a maximum 5 percent next year) including the reduction in duties of imported raw materials not locally produced or produced but in insufficient quantity from 3 percent to one percent. This reduction is estimated to result in P800 million in foregone customs collections.

But Francia said the government could generate additional revenues by approving FPI's petition to maintain duties on 355 tariff lines or product categories at 2001 levels.

The government had agreed to reduce duties on the imported inputs to give manufacturers some cost savings to offset other factors that contribute to the high cost of doing business here such as high power costs, inefficient transport system and rising labor costs.

Manufacturers have argued that duties were primarily tools for protecting industries and not revenue sources. Since the imported inputs are not produced here or are produced in insufficient quantity, manufacturers argued that they should come in duty-free because there were no local industries to protect.

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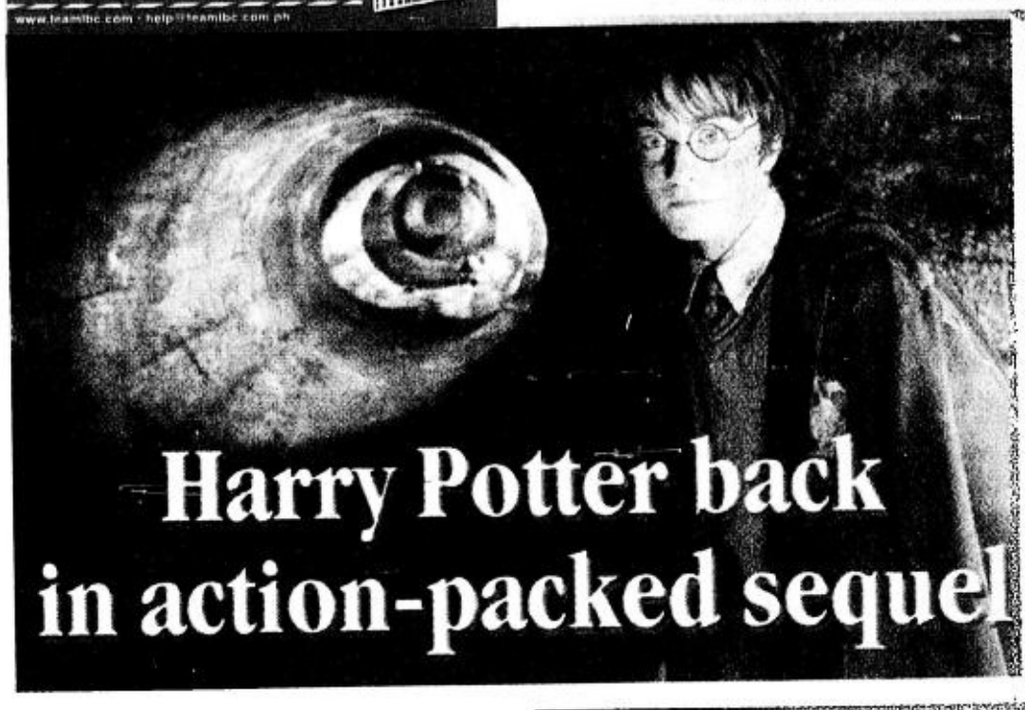

Harry Potter back in action-packed sequel

DANIEL Radcliffe stars in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." REUTERS

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By Larry Fine

NEW YORK—The famous young wizards of Hogwarts School are back, a year older, bolder and bound for adventure in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," which opened last week.

Dark forces

The second installment of the film series based on British author J.K. Rowling's best-selling books puts the school for wizards and witches in jeopardy from dark forces.

As Harry enters his second year at the school, some students are found "petrified," leading to speculation about Hogwarts' legendary "Chamber of Secrets," the supposed home of a terrifying beast, and the threat these forces pose to the very existence of the school.

The film spends less time on character development and relationships than the first Harry Potter movie and instead surges forward on a wave of special-effects magic.

"The second book was darker," director Chris Columbus said.

"And I wanted better visual effects for the second film," Columbus added, stressing the need to give the second Potter movie its own identity. "I tried to make a 2-1/2 hour movie feel about 30 minutes long."

Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his pals Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) are all back, but seen in a different light—a moodier lighting scheme devised by Academy Award-nominated cinematographer Roger Pratt.

Scary

"It's quite scary," Grint, 14, told a New York news conference after a preview. "It's up to the parents if they want to put their kids through it." His Potter pals defended the darker aspects of "Chamber." "Everybody has a dark side, really," said Radcliffe, 13. "I think it was great to show Harry's dark side, show that he's not flawless, not a perfect person." Watson, 12, said: "I think fans of the book will be very happy."

The film, rated PG, may seem scarier than the first to the youngest Potter fans, though Columbus said it passed the nightmare test with his five-year-old daughter, Isabella, who slept soundly after seeing the movie.

The first film of the series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," titled "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" in Britain, was wildly successful yet came under some criticism for its slavish devotion to Rowling's text.

Sticking closely to the plot penned by Rowling, whose books have sold more than 175 million copies, proved a sound strategy as the initial Harry Potter film has grossed more than $966 million—second worldwide behind only "Titanic." Yet Columbus, who also directed the first Potter film, took liberties this time by expanding on elements in the book to create some of the new movie's most pulsating moments.

Magic duels

The coming-of-age wizards wage magic duels, endure run-ins with an army of spiders and a monstrous serpentine creature, soar in

HARRY/ C2

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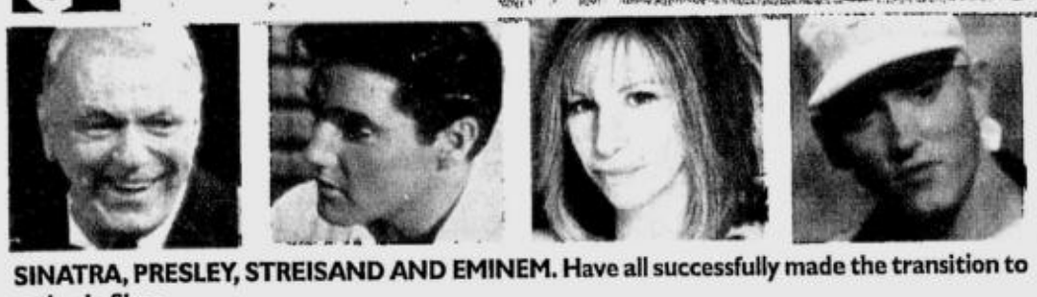

SINATRA, PRESLEY, STREISAND AND EMINEM. Have all successfully made the transition to acting in films.

From singing to big-screen stardom

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR decades now, top singers (and, more recently rappers) have successfully made the transition to film stardom.

Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Barbra Streisand, Doris Day, Madonna and Julie Andrews are only some of the singers who have attained major screen stardom.

TV and film successes

And, from the field of rap, Will Smith has gone on to TV and film successes that have landed him on the "A" list of male show biz celebrities.

How did these standout talents make the grade as singers *and* film stars?

Frank Sinatra joined the Harry James band in 1939, and achieved fame with the Tommy Dorsey orchestra in 1942, driving his "bobbysoxer" fans wild with his expressive voice and gaunt good looks.

His film debut was with Dorsey in "Las Vegas Nights" (1941) and his first acting part was in "Higher and Higher." Most of his early films were so-so productions, but "Anchors Aweigh" and "On the Town" were superlative exceptions.

Most notable performances

As an actor, his most notable performances were in "From Here to Eternity," "The Man with the Golden Arm," "The Manchurian Candidate" and "Von Ryan's Express."

Barbra Streisand began singing in Cabaret shows then hit it big in musical theater. She first made her mark in films with "Funny Girl," a biography of Fanny Brice, followed by "Hello, Dolly" and "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever."

Outstanding director

In time, she became popular enough to star in films that didn't require her to sing—"What's Up, Doc?," "The Way We Were," "The Prince of Tides." Later, she surprised people even more when she became an outstanding director with "Yentl."

Elvis Presley first sang in local bars in Mississippi and Tennessee before being signed up to a recording contract. His rock performances drove audiences wild and he was censured by some conservative groups. But that didn't stop his ascent to stardom in the recording and live-performance scene.

Soon, he was such a major draw that the movies could no longer ignore him. His film career began with "Love Me Tender" (1956) and continued with "Jailhouse Rock," "King Creole," "GI Blues," "Blue Hawaii," "Viva Las Vegas" and many other films.

London cabaret

For her part, Julie Andrews started singing as a child in London cabaret. She made her New York musical theater debut in "The Boy Friend," and created the Broadway role of Eliza in "My Fair Lady."

Ironically, when the musical was filmed, Eliza was played by Audrey Hepburn, a bigger draw with audiences at the time.

Julie finally appeared on the big screen in "Mary Poppins" (1964), and it made her a star—*and* won for her a Best Actress Oscar. She scored an even bigger triumph as Maria in "The Sound of Music," which remains the most successful musical of all time.

Rapper

These days, the big to-do is over rapper Eminem's own successful transition to film acting by way of his first starrer, "8 Mile," which has opened to a very favorable reception in the States.

Eminem is such a controversial performer (due to his homophobic, violent and misogynistic raps) that his fine performance in his first movie has surprised many people. They never thought that, under that tough, nasty, sneering exterior, lay the soul of a true artist.

In "8 Mile," Eminem plays a character pretty much like himself, a "white-trash" kid who turns to rapping to escape his dead-end life. Most of the movie's rave reviews single out his performance, describing it as charismatic, magnetic, raw, sensitive, powerful—etc. Clearly, Eminem, the film star, has arrived!

Harry Potter back . . .

From page C1

flights of fancy aboard an airborne car and generally grapple with growing up.

"From a film point of view, it had a hidden little secret," Columbus told Reuters about the "Chamber" book. "The spider sequence and the Basilisk (serpentine) sequence on the page weren't full-blown action sequences.

"That's really where we changed it a lot. We wanted to really develop these into big action sequences." Columbus anticipates fans will like the new feature, which gets a buoyant performance from Kenneth Branagh as Hogwarts' new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor.

"I have no fears that Harry Potter will go stale, not with this film," Columbus said.

Producer David Heyman said, "This movie is stronger than the first, in my opinion," but admitted to being nervous over Rowling's reaction when it was screened for her.

"One of the most nerve-racking days of my life," Heyman called that meeting, adding that he heaved a huge sigh of relief when Rowling hugged him afterward and whispered in his ear, "Thank you."

Heyman noted the first movie devoted 45 minutes to setting up the world of Harry Potter. "In 'Chamber of Secrets,' we jump directly into the narrative and into the adventure," he said.

Rollicking ride

That gets the rollicking ride quickly up to speed, but means two of the first film's most magnetic figures—gentle giant Rubeus Hagrid, played by Robbie Coltrane, and suspicious Potions professor Severus Snape, played by Alan Rickman—feature less prominently than in the book and first movie.

"I missed having Hagrid, and missed Alan Rickman but we needed

HARRY/C3

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TOY SYMPHONY. Simple lyrics and instrumentation.

'Toy Symphony' features original compositions

By Leia Torre

THE FIRST album of the band of the same name, "Toy Symphony" has 11 tracks, many of which were written by band member Elhmir Saison, whose composing credits include "Keep Me," "Baby Don't Go," "Love Is Here to Stay," "Lifeline," "Believe," "Sana'y Pansinin," "Sealed," and "Dreams."

Co-composers

For their part, Elke Ortiz, Kashli Saison, and Tabs Tabunar co-composed "Believe," "My Whole World is You," and "Keep Me," respectively.

Other composers who worked on these songs include Ferdie Olaguer, Dennis D. García, Bernard Bismark, and Emil Mayor.

One of the songs that grab listeners' attention is "Namimilipit Sa Sarap," and not just because of its unusual title. The lyrics are original, and the rhythm is catchy, with a jazzy and R&B feel.

"Baby Don't Go" is unabashedly a love song. It has its merits, but it isn't as striking as "Namimilipit."

Syncopated

"Lifeline" is a song made for dancing. The singing is syncopated, and there's a lot of drumwork involved.

"Believe" is your classic "pep talk with music," designed to boost anyone who's depressed—"If you think you can/ You can make it happen/ Believe in yourself/ That you've got the power"—heartening words, indeed.

"Keep Me" is a novel love song, its rhythm hiphop beat rather than dreamily "romantic."

Balm

"Dreams," is distinguished by simple lyrics and instrumentation—a good way to end the album, as well as an exhausting day, with the soothing balm of music.

The Toy Symphony band should be credited for taking a risk by singing their own music instead of going for remakes of the tried-and true, which is what many local artists have been doing.

We hope that other groups follow their example, and dare to make new songs, instead of merely riding on the coattails of already successful tunes.

RON and Harry in their magical flying car.

Harry Potter . . .

From page C2

to make room for Gilderoy Lockhart," Columbus said about the foppish character played to comic perfection by Branagh.

The young stars are more self-assured in the second film. Radcliffe and Watson are relaxed and confident, while Grint's flair for comedy is taking off.

Radcliffe is "becoming more of a leading man," according to Columbus. "He looks older. He looks great. He's ageing well." The young trio are obviously maturing in real life.

Radcliffe's voice, for instance, is changing. "My voice was starting to break doing the filming. But it didn't go up and down. It just went from one to the other. Not a big deal," he shrugged.

Questionable

With the pace of the Potter film series production slowing, it is questionable whether Radcliffe, Grint and Watson will be able or willing to continue after the third instalment of the projected seven-book anthology. "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," which begins production in March and is not expected to be released until June 2004.

Other changes will come as soon as the third film. With the passing away last month of esteemed Irish actor Richard Harris at the age of 72, a new Professor Albus Dumbledore, the wise headmaster of Hogwarts, will have to be cast.

• Columbus, meanwhile, is giving way as director to Mexican Alfonso Cuaron, director of "A Little Princess" (1995) and the recent hit "Y Tu Mama Tambien" (2001). *Reuters*

Nicole Kidman to take lead in new Von Trier feature

COPENHAGEN—Danish director Lars von Trier is to begin filming his next feature "Manderley" next year, with Academy Award nominee Nicole Kidman in the lead role, his production company said Tuesday.

Australian-born Kidman had accepted the lead in both "Manderley" and the untitled final part of the "Dogville" trilogy, said Zentropa's executive producer Peter Aalbaek, with shooting expected to begin in August.

Cannes filmfest

"Dogville," which Von Trier finished shooting this year and also stars Kidman, is due to be presented at the Cannes film festival next May.

Kidman was this year nominated for an Oscar for her portrayal of a courtesan in Baz Luhrmann's musical rollercoaster "Moulin Rouge." *AFP*

Diana Zubiri exudes confidence in 'Kasiping'

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN sexy star Diana Zubiri was shooting her first movie for Seiko Films, she went to a newsstand to buy a tabloid because her picture was on the front page. No one recognized her, much less paid attention to her.

ZUBIRI. "Flyover Queen."

Commotion

Today, Diana can't go anywhere without causing a commotion, all because she posed in a bikini for FHM magazine on a Mandaluyong flyover. Now, everyone calls her the "Flyover Queen" because of the suit that Mandaluyong mayor Ben-Hur Abalos threatened to file against her for causing a public scandal.

The story landed on the front pages of many newspapers and tabloids and made it to primetime TV newscasts. GMA's "Debate" even featured her case. Radio commentators discussed her brush with the law. Diana's name has suddenly become embedded in the public consciousness.

We spoke to Diana a day after the mayor's announcement and she was visibly affected by the prospect of being arrested and placed behind bars. She said the least Abalos could have done was to ask her to explain her side. Asked whether her sudden "notoriety" is good for her career, she frowned and stated that there are other ways of getting noticed by media.

Seiko's Robbie Tan defended his actress from Abalos' tirades, saying that the good mayor over-reacted to the flyover incident. We're sure, however, that Robbie didn't mind the amount of attention his star got from the pictorial, especially because Diana's movie "Kasiping" opens next Wednesday.

We remember Robbie saying that, despite her two movies, Diana still had low recall with moviegoers, That's why he encouraged his star to accept guestings on TV, which has a wide audience.

Traffic jam

If you ask us, we think Diana should be charged for causing a public scandal *if* she wore a two-piece bathing suit and she was grossly overweight. As it was, her outfit showed off her whistle-bait figure to advantage and, judging from the TV coverage, she didn't cause a traffic jam at all. The pictorial lasted for less than 30 minutes and none of the vehicles stopped so the passengers could ogle her. All they did was to wave at Diana, who gamely waved back.

Whatever traffic jam she could cause could happen in theater lobbies next week when her movie, "Kasiping" is shown. Unlike Diana's last movie "Bakat" which went through a difficult review process at the MTRCB and required several cuts before it was approved, "Kasiping" needed very few revisions after it was disapproved on first review. It got an "R" rating after second review and Robbie looked happy at Diana's lunch with the press.

Diana plays a hairdresser married to Rodel Velayo, who prefers the rustic life in the provinces. Diana's character is flirty and wants to go abroad to try her luck.

The other main players are Halina Perez and new discovery Dante Balboa, who portray a live-in couple. Dante is a Mama's boy who wants his partner to stay at home and take care of him. Halina writes pulp fiction and feels hemmed in by her relationship.

Eventually, of course, Dante will get involved with Diana while Rodel and Halina will also have their own fling. The lovemaking is beautifully photographed by veteran Romy Vitug, whose lighting is one reason why the actors look good on screen.

Liberated woman

In previous movies, Diana always played the "*aping-api*" wife. In "Kasiping," she's a liberated woman who has sex for pleasure, without commitment. This role is a lot different from her previous movies where she played characters who were abused by her male partners.

Somehow, the change of image is also evident in Diana herself. The first time we interviewed her, she was shy and gave one-sentence answers. At the presscon for "Kasiping," she had become more confident, answering questions like a seasoned actress.

One thing has remained: She's still coy when answering questions about sex, especially when they concern her personal life. She'll think nothing of explaining how she did a sensitive scene in the movie, but ask her if she's a virgin and she blushes.

Yes, she says she's still a virgin, despite having had six boyfriends. She managed to hold them off by convincing them it wasn't the right time.

So, is she the type who wants to save her virginity for the man she will marry? Her reply: "I don't have to be married to lose it. I just have to meet the right person."

Kristine Hermosa is a reluctant star no longer

By Jocelyn Valle

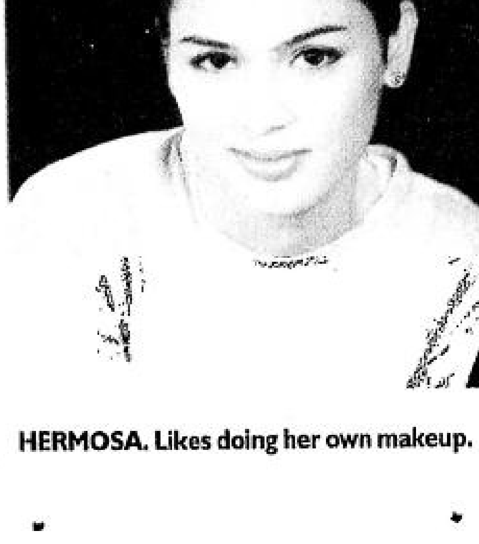
UNLIKE most pretty girls who are wont to often look at themselves in the mirror, Kristine Hermosa avoids it— because she doesn't feel beautiful! Others would disagree, of course.

Gorgeous

She finds her favorite Hollywood stars Julia Roberts, Cameron Diaz, Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman gorgeous. Ditto for Gretchen Barretto, Dawn Zulueta, G Tongi and Vanessa del Bianco.

A lot of people admire Kristine's beauty, though, that's why she's one of the hottest young stars today. Her telenovela "Pangako sa 'Yo" may have reached its conclusion, but Kristine is slated to do a follow-up to the blockbuster movie "Forevermore," which starred Jericho Rosales.

She's also a fixture on the tube as a product endorser—proof positive of her popularity. Her latest ad is a dream come true for Kristine. "*Matagal ko nang gustong magkaroon ng* shampoo commercial," smiles the latest Head and Shoulders model.



HERMOSA. Likes doing her own makeup.

Bangkok

Kristine shares that the spot was shot in Bangkok, Thailand, which is the regional center for the Ace Saatchi advertising company, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. "*Mabilis ang trabaho,*" she recalls. "Worried *lang ako sa* hair *ko kasi maraming* treatment *ang ginawa nila*."

The 19-year-old "Ang TV" alum shares a few tips in taking care of hair and skin: "Stay away from the sun. Aside from shampoo and conditioner, I use a leave-on conditioner. I also have a hot oil treatment at the parlor once a week. I'm glad that I don't have sensitive skin. I just wash my face. I also avoid experimenting with different beauty products."

Kristine admits that she used to have pimples on her face before. She also discloses that she doesn't go on a diet and doesn't work out in a gym regularly. Simply put, she's blessed with an innately svelte body.

Whenever she can, Kristine does her own makeup. "I enjoy mixing colors," she explains. In fact, she wants to take up Fine Arts and become a makeup artist someday. Recently, she opened a branch of David's Salon in her parents' hometown in Masbate, with her mom as manager.

More comfortable

This doesn't mean that Kristine plans to leave the biz soon. On the contrary, she's becoming more comfortable with her line of work. "*Hindi na ako* reluctant star like before," she smiles, adding that she only tried acting upon the encouragement of her mom and elder sister Kathleen, who's also an actress.

"Even when I was already doing the drama 'Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako,' I wasn't convinced that show biz was for me. *'Pag dating ng* 'Pangako,' *doon lang ako naging* confident."

At the same time, Kristine concedes that she still has a lot to improve in herself, like her posture, her manner of speaking, her acting and her personality.

"*Pero* sweet *talaga ako,*" she teases, alluding to the notion that stars are only lovable on the screen. "*At mapagmamalaki ko na* sincere *ako*."

RACHEL Grant with Pierce Brosnan in "Die Another Day."

Exciting young female comers showcased in new Hollywood productions

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S encouraging to learn that one of the new talents appearing in Hollywood productions this year is part Filipino.

Rachel Grant, who was born in the Philippines, is featured in the latest James Bond film, "Die Another Day." She plays Peceful, the exotic Bond Girl whose expertise turns out to be crucial in Agent 007's latest dangerous mission to save the world.

Vital roles

Peceful is one of the three female characters who play vital roles in Bond's latest adventure. The sexy trio is led by Halle Berry as Jinx, with Rosamund Pike as Miranda Frost.

Rachel's bio informs us that her full name is Rachel Louise Grant de Longevil, and she was born in Luzon. Her father, a doctor and hypnotherapist, is of English-Scottish and French-Canadian descent, and her mom, whose own mother was Spanish, is from the Philippines. She is a graduate of English and World Literature, and designs and makes theatrical costumes.

Rachel's past screen experiences include being one of the body doubles for Angelina Jolie in "Lara Croft, Tomb Raider."

She has also won more than her share of beauty titles-Ms Philippines Tourism, Ms Hawaiian Tropic Great Britain, and third runner up, Ms UK for the Ms World competition.

Two sisters

Rachel's two sisters are also in the public eye. Angela is a model, and Rebecca is in the cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new West End musical, "Bombay Dreams."

For her part, Erika Christensen is given her breakthrough role in "Swimfan," as an "unhinged" young woman who spends one night witha swimming champ (Jesse Bradford) and then decides that he (and his girlfriend) *won't* live to regret it!

It sounds like "Fatal Attraction" for the young-adult set, and Christensen's character really lays it on thick in the villain department: she lies, cheats, steals—and kills.

Exact opposite

In real life, the young actress is the exact opposite of her warped screen character. She has no vices, spends her free time with her family, goes to church, is a self-described "goody-two-shoes," and wholeheartedly embraces the idea of being a role model.

So, why did she agree to be so nasty in "Swimfan"? Well, it's a starmaking role, so turning it down was out of the question.

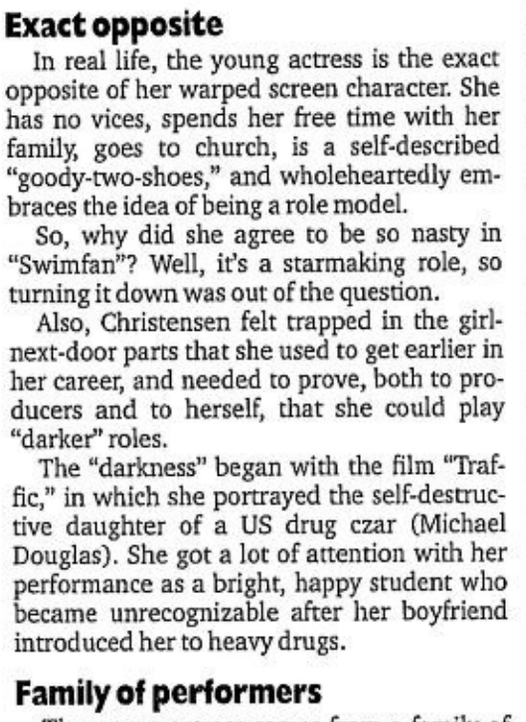
Also, Christensen felt trapped in the girl-next-door parts that she used to get earlier in her career, and needed to prove, both to producers and to herself, that she could play "darker" roles.

The "darkness" began with the film "Traffic," in which she portrayed the self-destructive daughter of a US drug czar (Michael Douglas). She got a lot of attention with her performance as a bright, happy student who became unrecognizable after her boyfriend introduced her to heavy drugs.

Family of performers

The young actress comes from a family of performers. Her grandmothers, Evelyn Christensen and Jane Matz, were both actresses. As early as three years old, Christensen's penchant for performing indicated that she, too, was show biz-bound.

The future looks bright for Erika Christensen, who's snagged another good role in "The Banger Sisters." In that film, she plays a straight-A student who experiments with drug and sex, to the horror of her conservative mother (Susan Sarandon).



CHRISTENSEN (right) with Jesse Bradford in "Swimfan."

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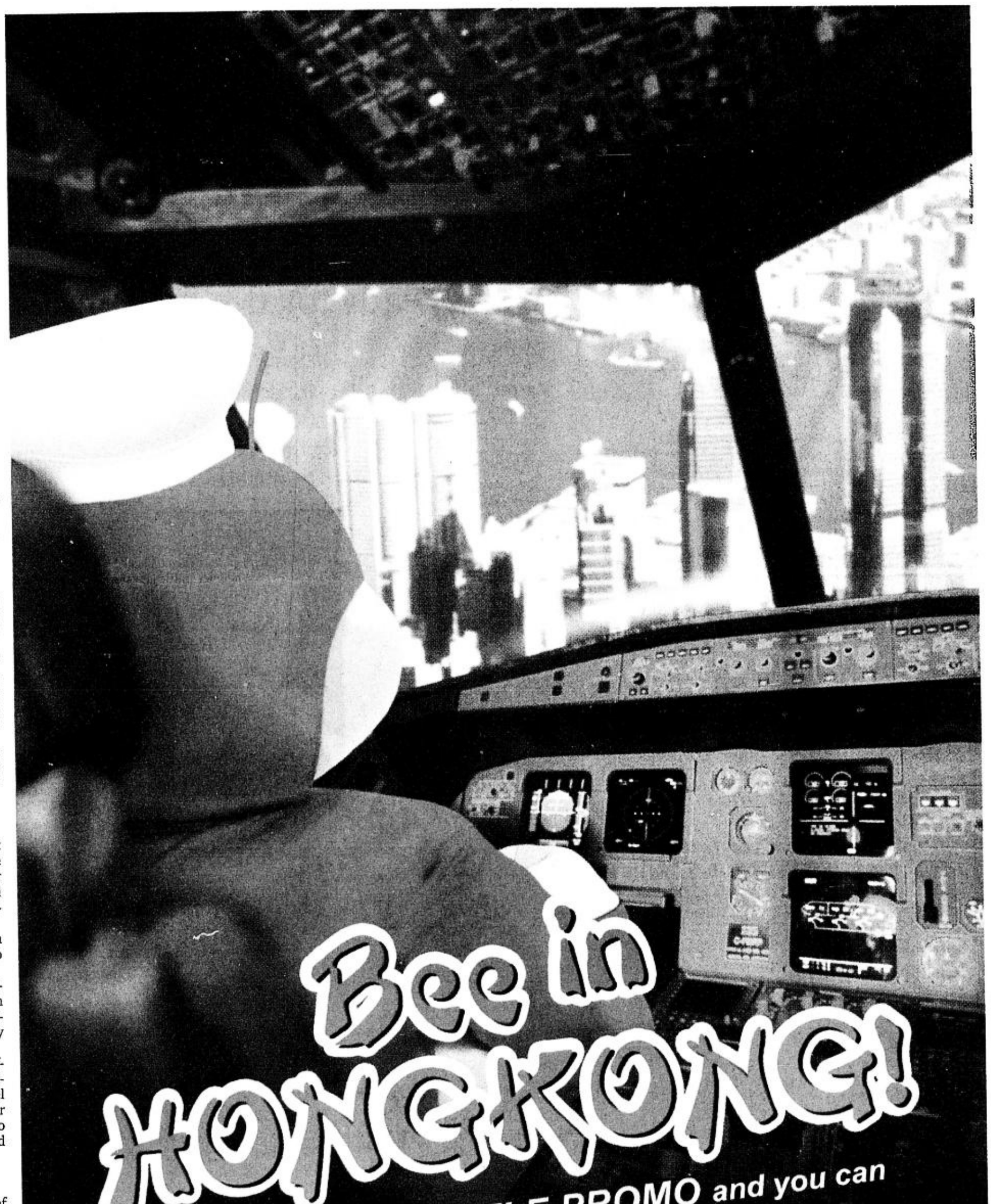

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10. Winners will be notified through registered mail and by phone on how to claim their prize.
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12. Winners can avail of their trips within one year from the date of issuance and are subject to Cebu Pacific's booking requirements.
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Promo period: November 1 - December 15, 2002
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4314 Series of 2002

Jollibee

Meet Karel Marquez, one of the 'Berks'

By Edmund L. Sicam

MEET Karel Marquez, 15 going on 16, one of the new faces being introduced in the latest youth-oriented show from ABS-CBN, "Berks," premiering today at 4 p.m. Berks is the "in" term for *barkada* among the *bagets* crowd. It topbills John Prats and Heart Evangelista.

Show biz blood

Karel has show biz blood running in her veins, being the daughter of singer Pinky Marquez. She's not exactly a neophyte, having created a stir in the Royal True Orange commercial where she appeared with Michael Allan Eusebio, who's also in "Berks."

She has done stage plays like "The Sound of Music" where she played one of the Von Trapp children and her mom played Maria. At an early age, she was already tagging along with Pinky, helping her backstage with costumes and props, during the provincial tour of the long-running musical "Magnificat." Occasionally, she would even venture onstage as one of the members of the chorus.

Last Monday, we chatted with her during the presscon for the new TV show, and though she was still soft-spoken and demure, we found that she had lost a lot of the shyness and insecurity she had when we first met her seven years ago.

In "Berks," she plays Penelope, the "*taray* queen" who's smart but insecure deep inside. She envies Gwyneth, the character played by Heart. Karel likes her character because it is so unlike what she really is.

Since the show deals with teeners and their problems in school and at home, we threw some typical problems faced by the *bagets* crowd today at Karel.

Pimples. She says this was a problem many years ago but she didn't panic about them. In time, her face cleared up without her having to go regularly go to a derma. Today, when she has pimples caused by late night shoots, she uses toothpaste.

Name brands

Wardrobe. Karel doesn't really care for name brands. "I'd rather go to Greenhills and look for bargains." She dresses for comfort rather than for style.

Extra pounds. She wants to lose weight because some of her co-stars say she looks fat on screen. So she's forsaken rice and when she's hungry, *"tinutulugan ko na lang,"* says the 15-year-old. She's already lost three pounds and has five more pounds to go.

Allowance. *"Okay lang,"* she replies when we ask if she's happy with the allowance she receives from her parents. Translation: She'd be even happier if she got more. "Sometimes, they forget so I have to make *utang* from the *yaya*," she sighs.

Now that she has a regular show, her mom and dad have told her that she can do "whatever I want to do with the money." But they have advised her to save for her college education. The idea is for her to just spend 20 percent of what she earns.

The teener is not *maluho*. When I ask her if she wants to buy an expensive cell phone, she showed me her Ericsson, which is definitely not as expensive as the newer ones which can take pictures.

Parenting. Karel's parents are separated but she has adjusted to the situation. She admits that when she was much younger, this was a big problem for her. Today, she stays with her dad on weekdays and with her mom on weekends. She loves them both and they have continued to shower Karel with all the love and attention she deserves.

Discipline. Her mom is very protective about Karel when it comes to keeping her away from bad influences, like friends and acquaintances who smoke or experiment with recreational drugs. Her dad, on the other hand, advises her on how to carry herself. "He's very particular about what I wear, *kasi nagdadalaga na raw ako*. He's my fashion consultant," she says.

Career

Boys. We ask her if she can live without boys. After a long pause, she replies, "Let me think about that"—and lets out a big laugh. She doesn't want to get involved right now because she wants to concentrate on her schooling and career. *"May mga* crush *ako, pero hanggang kilig lang yon,"* she stresses.

Telebabad. Many years ago, she would sneak out of her room and use the cordless phone to talk for hours with her friends, both male and female. The first time she talked to boys, she found it exciting. Now, she doesn't want to talk to them if it's just to waste time on the phone.

Internet. She admits that she loves to surf the internet and since her dad has a subscription that provides unlimited access, Karel uses the computer for long periods of time. She chats a lot but only with people she knows, especially friends who are abroad. They arrange to be on line at a certain time and chat on the computer, which is definitely cheaper than using the phone.

Finally, we ask her how it feels to be "no longer a child but not yet an adult." She tells us that she's still very much a child. For instance, she's still crazy about the Power Puff Girls and she's not in a hurry to be independent and live away from her mom and dad. But doing the weekly show is a big step on her way to being a certified adult.

MARQUEZ. Dresses for comfort rather than for style.

KAREL (extreme right) with, from left, Hazel Ann Mendoza, Heart Evangelista, Allyson Lualhati and Sarah Christophers.

Josh Lucas is ready for the big leagues

THIS week's Q&A:

***From Jackie Santos of Mandaluyong,* "I totally enjoyed 'Sweet Home Alabama' and its stars, Reese Witherspoon, Patrick Dempsey and Josh Lucas. Who is Lucas and where did he come from? He looks familiar but I don't remember where I've seen him."**

Josh Lucas, the 31-year-old looker who played Reese's little-known husband, Jake, who refused to give her a divorce in "Sweet Home Alabama," started acting in films with 1993's cannibal flick, "Alive," as one of the rugby players stranded in the Andes mountains after a plane crash.

Niche

In the film business, he has carved a niche portraying cynics, cads and ne'er-do-wells in movies like "American Psycho" (starring Christian Bale), "Father Hood" (with Patrick Swayze), "You Can Count on Me" and, more recently, as the sleazy older gay lover of a

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

teenage boy whose death triggers a chain of events in the brilliant psycho-thriller, "The Deep End," shown here a couple of months ago.

You also must have seen him in Ron Howard's "A Beautiful Mind," as the supercilious rival of math genius John Forbes Nash (played by Russell Crowe).

Josh, billed Joshua Lucas in earlier films, was born in Arkansas to medical professionals (his dad is a doctor, his mom a midwife), but he had a peripatetic childhood because of his parents' political activism.

His family moved from one place to another before his folks decided to settle in Washington when Josh was in high school. This was when he nurtured his interest in acting.

Career

He started acting for the Seattle Children's Theater. He participated in state-wide competitions, which he won, in both his junior and senior years. He then decided to eschew college for a career in performing arts.

He says, "I wanted to go to Yale or some other school with a good acting program. But I totally blew my SAT scores, so it was out of the question."

Upon the advice of his father, Josh went to Los Angeles to pursue acting. But he hated the place, so he moved to New York and has lived there ever since.

He will be seen next in "Four Reasons," "Wonderland" (with Val Kilmer) and Ang Lee's screen adaptation of "The Incredible Hulk," starring Eric Bana and Jennifer Connelly, in which he plays the protagonist's nemesis,

He looks up to Russell Crowe and Sean Penn for their dedication to their craft

LUCAS. Peripatetic childhood.

Maj. Glenn Talbot.

The actor is well-liked in the film industry. Andy Tennant, his director in "Sweet Home Alabama," has only praises for the 6'2" actor.

Gorgeous

He jests, "I hate Josh for so many reasons. He has talent and he is gorgeous, and that just shouldn't be allowed in the same package. Something has to be done about the guy—I can't stand him!"

He looks up to co-star Russell Crowe and Sean Penn for their dedication to their craft as actors. He recalls, "Russell's trailer was like his zone of creative energy. While shooting 'A Beautiful Mind,' his trailer had a wall for mathematics, a wall for accent work, a wall of photographs of John Nash, a wall about schizophrenia...

"His trailer traveled every single place he went. He studied, he watched, he incorporated pieces of research he had done."

Lucas may have the intensity and dedication of Penn and Crowe, but if there's anything that the six-month shooting of "Sweet Home Alabama" taught him, it's knowing when and how to lighten up.

***From Mary Jane Demafeliz of Paranaque,* "I know that your column is mostly about entertainers. But sports stars are celebrities, too, aren't they? Please feature them also because the sports pages don't often write about the lives of these equally interesting people. Would you know where I can write my favorite tennis heroes, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi?"**

For the current US Open champion, write Pete at 1360-E 9th st., No. 100, Cleveland, Ohio 44114 USA.

For Steffi Graff's hubby, write Andre at 3960 Howard Hughes Parkway No. 750, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109-0917 USA.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 16 - NOV 22

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis 9:30 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Fox News 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Dangerous Intentions* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Hot Ticket 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Above Suspicion* 11:00 *Body Shot 2002*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Rank *Best TV Comedies of All Time* 8:00 Movies on E! 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 E! News Weekend
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	8:00 The Working President 9:00 Fox News 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Bogus* 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *That Darn Cat* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Katha Music Awards* 11:00 Road Trip	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 Sinemaks 9:30 Viva's Hot Hits 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Dana Carvey* 8:00 Movies on E! 10:00 Celebrity (Fox)*Carol Burnett: Just to Have a Laugh*
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	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Father's Betrayal*	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Ready Txt Go 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Entertainmnet Tonight 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Martin Back OnStage Part II*	6:00 PBA Games 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Viva Hot Hits 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Mode + L	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Survivor: Thailand 8:30 The Chronicle 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 Movies on E! 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Heartland*

Maricel Soriano finds inner peace

By Jocelyn Valle

TINSELTOWN'S Diamond Star has a special glow in her eyes. Laughter punctuates her crisp one-liners.

No questions

She has found God. "It happened suddenly," she recalls, smiling. "I didn't ask questions. I just surrendered everything to Him." Now, she adds, she has inner peace.

The former Regal Baby admits that she used to be sarcastic. "Because I was angry," she explains. "*Kasi akala ko kaya ko, pero hindi pala.* Only God can do everything."

Maricel also accepts responsibility for all the bad things that have happened in her life. "I admit it's all my fault. Now, however, God has a plan for me." For instance, finding a new manager in Wyngard Tracy (who's also the man behind the success of the Side A band).

Big heart

"Having him for a manager is a blessing. *Diretso siyang kausap.* He's strict but he has a big heart."

Maricel also believes that the cancellation of her sitcom, "Mary D' Potter," is part of God's plan for her, because taking its place is her new small-screen partnership with Cesar Montano.

The two popular stars' show on Channel 2, "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis," is a continuation of their old sitcom, "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis," but it has a new set of costars—comedians Dyords Javier, Smokey Manaloto, Earl Ignacio and Bearwin Meilly, and young stars Shaina Magdayao and Alwyn Uytingco.

It will still be a lot of fun, Maricel assures the followers of today's version of the classic "John and Marsha." The actress who played the well-loved TV couple's daughter, Shirley, shares that her and Cesar's relationship is like Dolphy and the late Nida's friendship.

Two sons

Maricel is loving her work more now that she's raising two precocious boys: Marron, 15, who studies at Oakridge Military School in the US, and Tien, nine, a third grader at the Ateneo.

The proud mom describes Tien as *makulit* and she's stunned when he bursts out, "Hey, bro, what's up?" Marron, on the other hand, makes her neck ache because he stands at 5'9". But these days, she can talk to him only on the phone.

This Christmas, Maricel will finally see Marron. She'll be leaving behind her younger son, though. But come March next year, she will be with Tien when she visits Marron again.

Aside from "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis," Maricel is busy shooting for Regal Films' "Mano Po." Sometimes, she's so tired that she wants to stay in bed. "But, when I can't get up, I just think of Marron's tuition. *Tayo ako agad!*" she laughs.

SORIANO. Believes that God has a plan for her.

KERT. Spelling whiz.

International perspective in education

WHEN I began considering schools for my son Kertesz Leon or Kert, I knew I wanted more than what traditional schools with large class sizes are offering. Kert is smart and will represent the Child Learning Center in a spelling contest by the end of this month.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

Dilemma

And so I found myself in a dilemma looking for a school that is progressive, rigorous and nurturing.

I came across The Esteban School located along Pasong Tamo ext. It was founded in 1964 as a preschool. Many of my friends have sent their children to The Esteban School.

It is only now that I've realized The Esteban School had developed its grade school curriculum, trained its teachers, and has had itself accredited by leading international education albodies.

Today, The Esteban School has over 150 children representing 22 nationalities, from preschool up to Grade 6. The school has been a member of the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) for the last three years.

Filipino values

Founder Eleanor Esteban stresses the importance of keeping class sizes small. Furthermore, she says "We are a school that encourages Filipino values. We are also an international school with as much as 60 percent of our students coming from different countries."

The school has formed an alliance with the University of Western Australia. It offers an MBA program in Manila, with professors flying in to personally facilitate classes.

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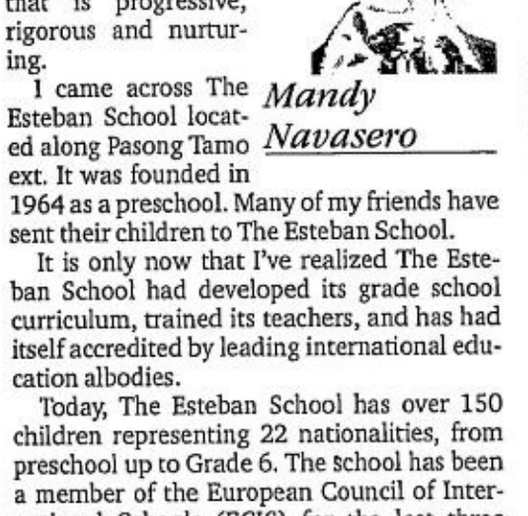

A MATH class at The Esteban School.

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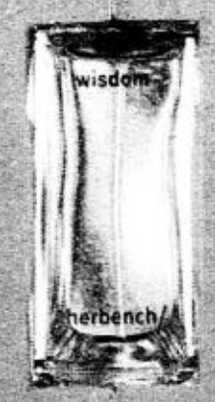

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SATURDAY Special

AFI to rank top screen heroes and villains

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—The American Film Institute is trying to separate the good from the bad: it announced plans Tuesday for a new top-100 list that will rank the top screen heroes and villains.

Voters can choose among 400 nominated characters from American film history and decide which should be considered wicked or virtuous.

Serial killer

That may seem easy when considering Kevin Spacey's serial killer from "Seven" or the pure-hearted pig from "Babe"—but voters may have a tougher time when categorizing nominees such as Robert De Niro's loner vigilante, Travis Bickle, from "Taxi Driver."

"It gets trickier as the characters become more complicated," said Bob Gazzale, producer of the planned special on CBS television in June that will reveal the final list of 50 good guys and 50 bad guys. "We're asking people not only to determine who is the greatest, but also decide if they're good or bad."

The institute is sending ballots to nearly 1,500 directors, actors, studio executives, critics and others involved in the entertainment industry.

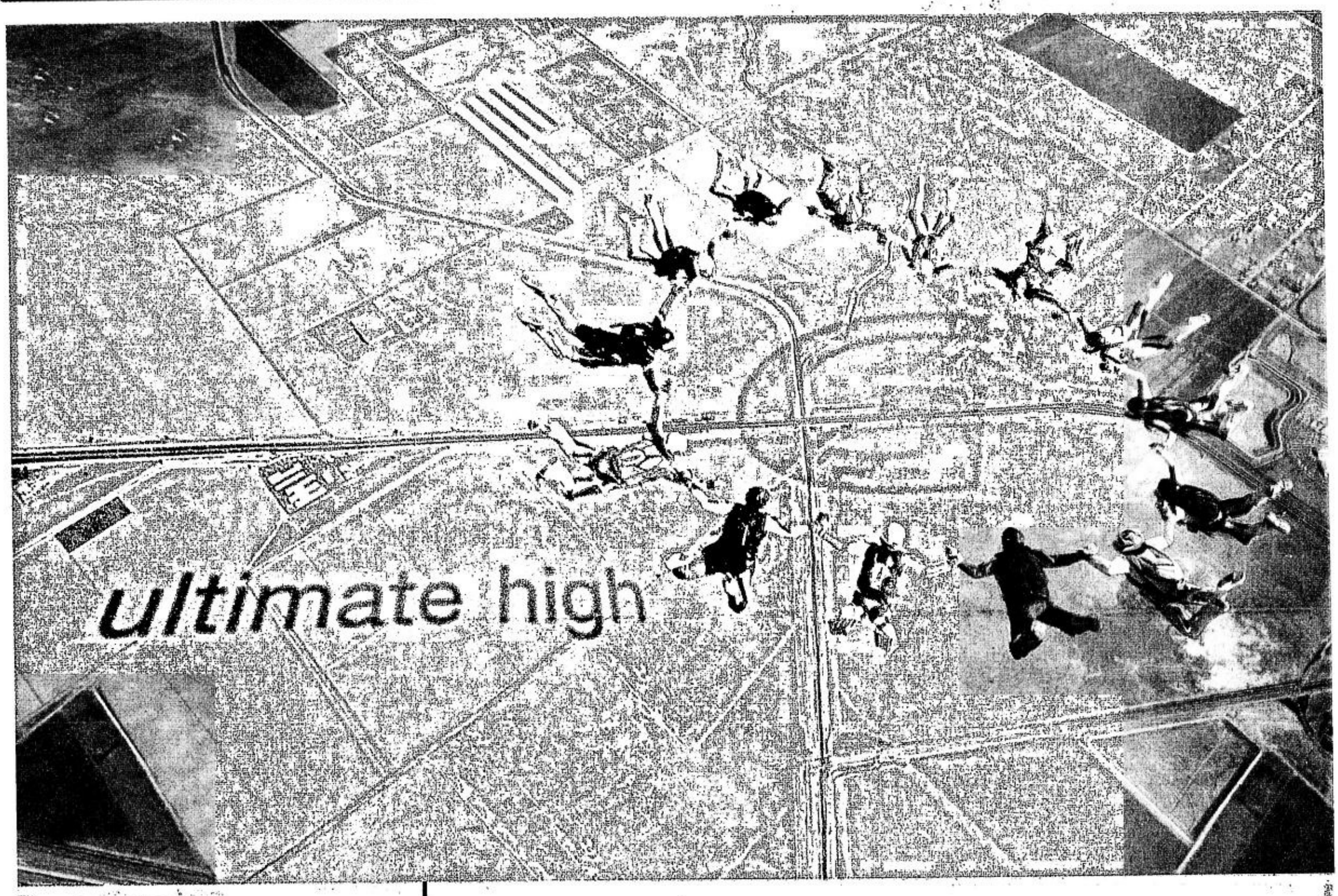
Real-life astronaut Jim Lovell, played by Tom Hanks in "Apollo 13," is up for consideration, along with Malcolm X, as performed by Denzel Washington in Spike Lee's biopic of the civil rights leader.

Zombies

Some characters are nominated en masse, such as the zombies from 1968's "Night of the Living Dead" and "The Wild Bunch" cowboys from director Sam Peckinpah's 1969 western.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's killer robot is nominated

AFI/ D3



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ICONS

skatebo1 · skating1 · snowbor1 · surfing1
surfing2 · clip · skydivin · skating2
gliding2 · wakebor1 · extreme1 · extreme2
freefall1 · gliding1 · grind · daredevil
alpine2 · motrbike · pwc · skijump

RINGTONES

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
8th WONDER	8thwnder	SUGARHILL GANG
ABSOLUTELY	absolutl	NINE DAYS
ALL YOU WANTED	youwanted	MICHELLE BRANCH
BIG MACHINE	bigmchin	GOO GOO DOLLS
BLACK BLACK HEART	blakhart	DAVID USHER
DR.FEELGOOD	docflgud	MOTLEY CRUE
I NEVER KNEW	inevrknw	GLORIA GAYNOR
NICE TO KNOW YOU	nice2knw	INCUBUS
ORDINARY DAY	ordinary	VANESSA CARLTON
PRE 63	pre63	GROOVE ARMADA
RIGHT NOW	ritenow	VAN HALEN
ROCKFELLA SKANK	rockfela	FATBOY SLIM
RUNNING AWAY	runnaway	HOOBASTANK
SERVED CHILLED	chilled	GROOVE ARMADA
SOMETHING	somethin2	LASGO
SONG2	blursong	BLUR
THE ROCK SHOW	rockshow	BLINK 182
UNBELIEVABLE	unbeliev	EMF
UP ALL NIGHT	upallnyt	UNWRITTEN LAW
WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS	wechamp	QUEEN
WIPE OUT	wipeout	THE SURFARIS

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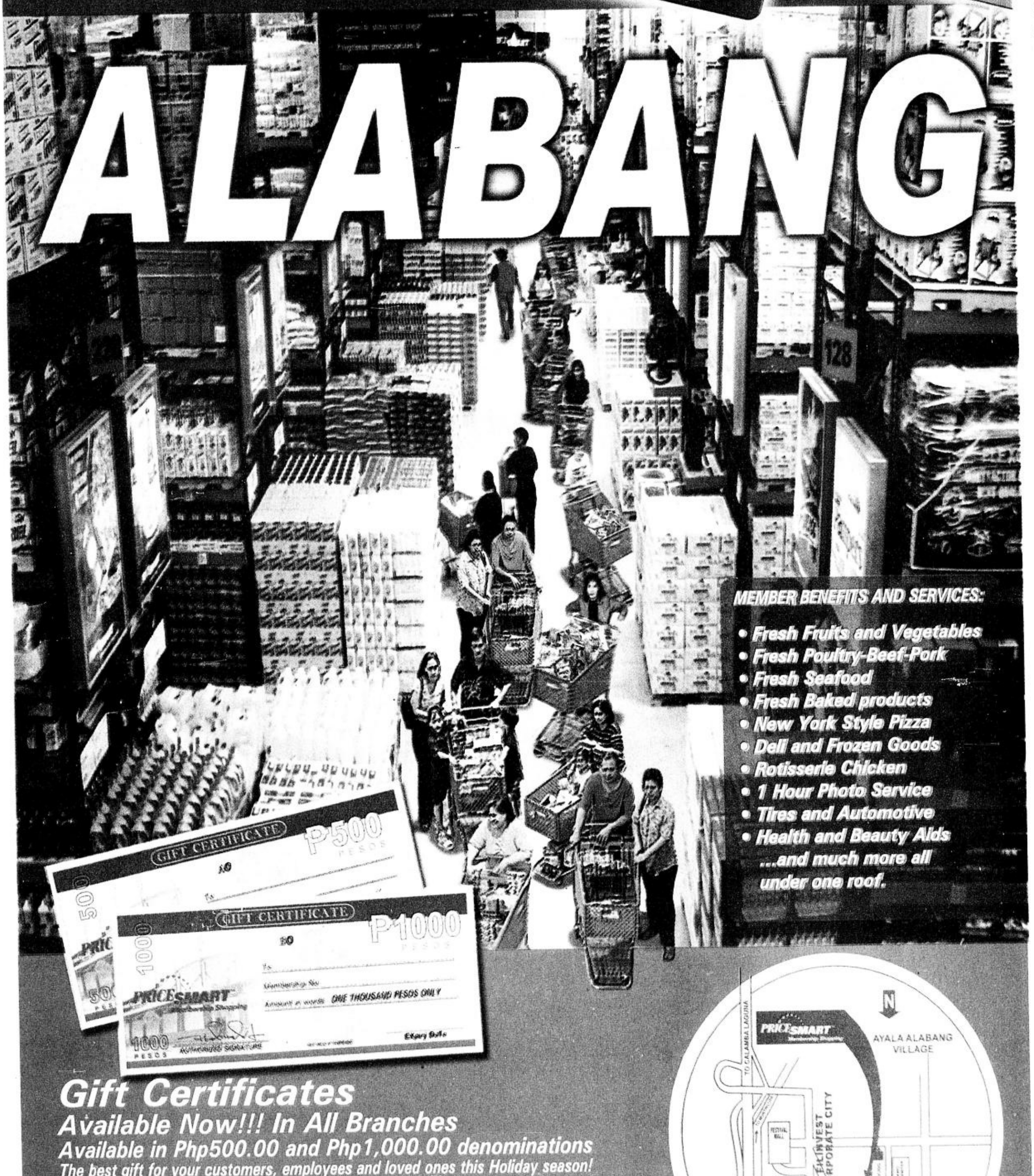

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Steve Martin to return as Oscars host

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Comic Steve Martin will once again trade in his arrow-through-the-head gear for a tuxedo as he returns to host the 75th Academy Awards in March, but New York is unlikely to share the famed telecast with Hollywood, organizers recently said.

10th appearance

The March 23 presentation of the film industry's highest honors will mark Martin's 10th appearance on an Oscars telecast and his second as master of ceremonies.

"I'm very pleased to be hosting the Oscars again, because fear and nausea always make me lose weight," the 57-year-old entertainer joked in a statement issued by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The show's producer, Gil Cates, said the 2003 Oscars telecast, his 11th production of the awards, would likely be staged entirely from Hollywood rather than doing part of the show from Manhattan, as a group of prominent New Yorkers, including Miramax co-chairman Harvey Weinstein, has urged.

"It's the 75th year, and it seems to be appropriate that it should be here in Los Angeles," he said.

Memorable entrance

Last year's telecast was hosted by comic actress Whoopi Goldberg, who made a memorable entrance dressed in top hat and feathers, shouting "Come and get me, boys," as she descended to the stage on a trapeze in a send-up of "Moulin Rouge." Martin first hosted the Oscars in 2001 with a performance that eschewed the "wild and crazy" persona that propelled him to fame in favor of a more understated, biting humor, with many of his jabs aimed at Hollywood stereotypes.

MARTIN. Will emcee the Academy Awards on their 75th year.

The silver-haired comic and film star also has served as presenter on six Oscar shows, introduced a best-picture clip in 1997 and took part in a gag film sequence in 1995.

"The 75th anniversary show is a meaningful one for the academy, and it is wonderful to work with a host who's done it before, Cates said. "A host who's witty, clever, sharp, intelligent, quick on his feet and always on top of the unfolding action."

Cates said that as a courtesy he first invited perennial emcee favorite Billy Crystal, who has hosted the Oscars seven times, to come back for the 75th edition. But he said Crystal "was doing a movie, so he was not available."

"Billy was the first person that I did the show with, so I always feel an obligation to ask him first," Cates told Reuters by telephone.

Delighted

"But I'm delighted with Steve. If it wouldn't be that I feel the obligation to ask Billy first, I would have asked Steve first . . . he would be my first choice." Martin sprang to fame as the zany, banjo-playing stand-up comedian who coined such catch phrases as "Well, excuuuuse ME!" and "I am a wild and crazy guy!"

He became a hit with several wildly popular appearances on TV's "Saturday Night Live" before embarking on a successful film career as an actor, writer and producer.

He has appeared in more than two dozen movies, including "Pennies from Heaven," "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid" and "Parenthood," but has never been nominated for an Oscar.

Martin recently completed filming an upcoming Disney comedy, "Bringing Down the House," with co-stars Queen Latifah and Eugene Levy. In January, he is due to begin production on "Shopgirl," adapted for the screen by Martin from his own best-selling novella. He will star in that film with Claire Danes and Jimmy Fallon.

The 2003 Oscars will be televised live on ABC, the Walt Disney Co.-owned network, from the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

Reuters

AFI to rank top screen heroes and villains

From page D1

twice, once for the attacking character he played in 1984's original "The Terminator," and again for 1991's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," in which the android he played was a protector.

Previous AFI lists included the 100 best American films, led by "Citizen Kane," and

The institute is sending ballots to nearly 1,500 people involved in the entertainment industry

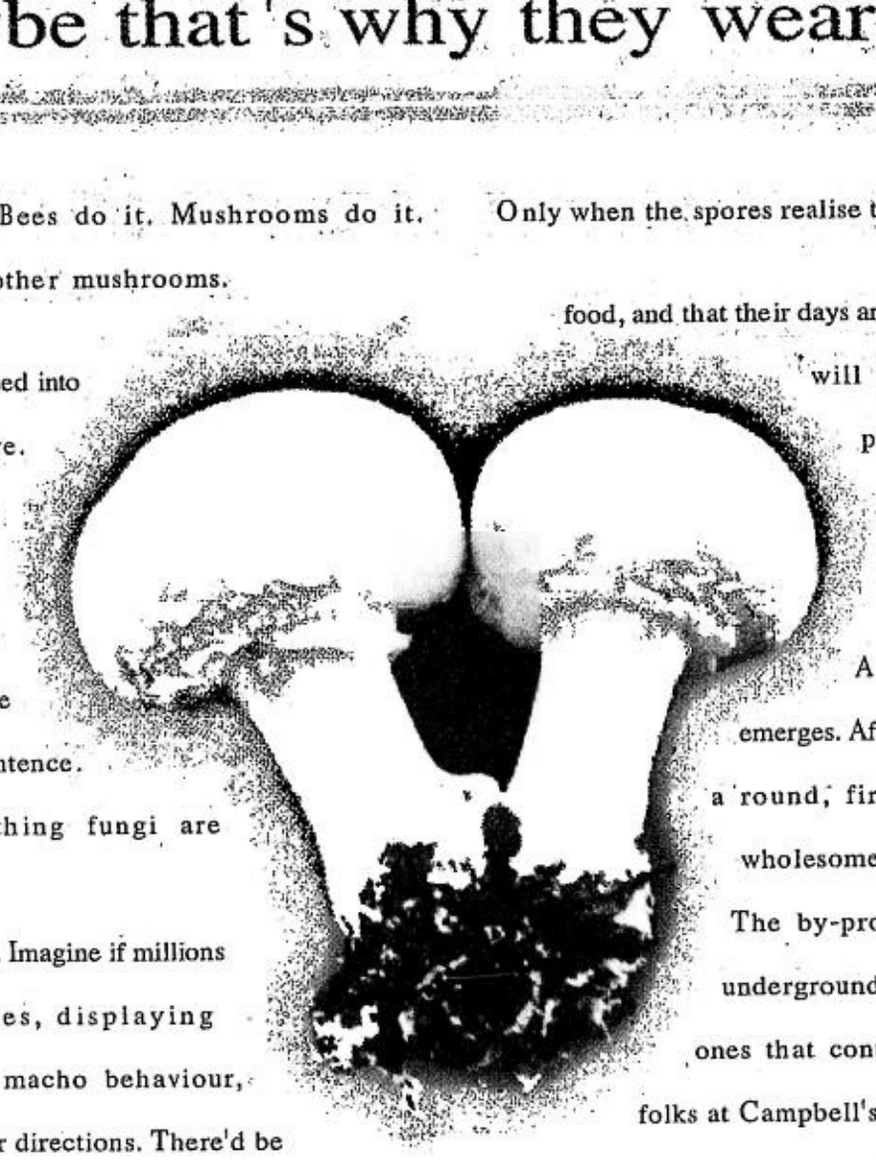
the 100 funniest movies, with "Some Like It Hot" at No. 1.

Jean Picker Firstenberg, the institute's director, said the contests are designed to "excite Americans to see movies they haven't seen for a while or see movies they've never seen."

AP

Mushrooms are celibate.
Maybe that's why they wear white.

Birds do it. Bees do it. Mushrooms do it. Just not with other mushrooms.



Spores are released into the atmosphere. Thousands upon thousands no bigger than the period at the end of this sentence. It's a good thing fungi are neither male nor female. Imagine if millions of male spores, displaying characteristic macho behaviour, refuse to ask for directions. There'd be mushrooms growing on say, the Statue of Liberty.

We cultivate ours on a wooden tray. Each tray is crammed with soft, smelly, nutrient-rich compost. One week. Two weeks. Nothing appears. Not yet. Only when the spores realise they've eaten all the food, and that their days are horribly numbered, will they start making plans to procreate. (Sociology students take note.)

A shivery white thread emerges. After a while it becomes a round, firm, smooth, crisp, wholesome button mushroom. The by-product of a complex underground network. The same ones that continue to delight the folks at Campbell's. And generations of soup lovers all over the world.

Rumour has it that a bowl a day promotes fertility. But don't quote us on that.

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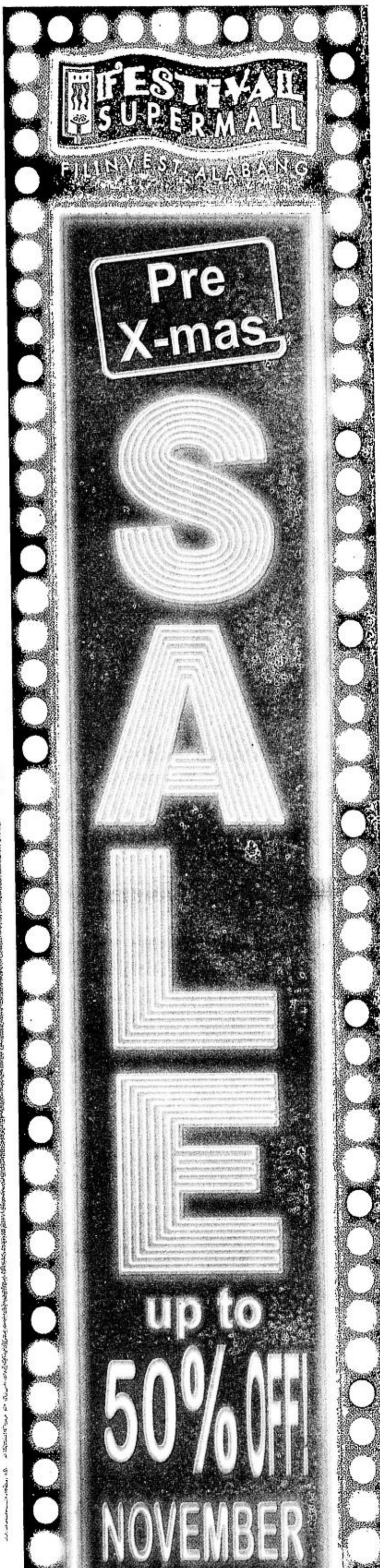


Jennifer Lopez announces engagement to Ben Affleck

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Lopez is engaged to be married to actor Ben Affleck, the singer-actress revealed during a television interview to be aired later this week.

Pink diamond

The announcement, made during an interview with Diane Sawyer of ABC News, follows weeks of media speculation which was heightened earlier this month when Lopez showed off to television cameras a pink diamond on her ring finger.

The two met on the set of the mob comedy "Gigli" last year and also recently co-starred in a romantic comedy "Jersey Girl." Both films are due to be released next year.

Californian Affleck, 30, who has never been married, will become 32-year-old New Yorker Lopez's third husband.

The couple cannot be married until Lopez's divorce from her second husband, dancer Cris Judd, is finalized in late January. Lopez filed for divorce in late July, citing irreconcilable differences after less than a year of marriage.

Report has circulated that the couple may marry on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, and Lopez confirmed during the interview they visited a Boston church together.

LOPEZ and Affleck may marry on Valentine's Day next year.

The couple cannot be married until her divorce from her second husband, dancer Cris Judd, is finalized in late January

Old Bronx neighborhood

The interview, taped in Manhattan and Lopez's old Bronx neighborhood, will air on ABC television's "Primetime: Special Edition." ABC is a unit of Walt Disney Co.

Lopez turned to Judd after splitting with longtime boyfriend, rapper Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, during his much publicized trial in New York on weapons and bribery charges. Combs was later acquitted.

Her first marriage to Ojani Noa ended in divorce in 1998 after about a year.

Affleck, who shared a best original screenplay Oscar with longtime friend Matt Damon for the 1997 movie "Good Will Hunting," checked himself into a clinic for treatment of alcohol abuse last year. *Reuters*

'Our Love Affair' effectively vivifies mature view of romance

The song is so well-loved that it was again used in 'Sleepless in Seattle,' starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan

GRANT AND KERR. Played conflicted lovers in "An Affair to Remember."

By Behn Cervantes

"OUR Love Affair," the immortal ballad in the 1956 tearjerker "An Affair to Remember" starring Cary Crant and Deborrah Kerr, is a film song that approximates the roles "As Time Goes By" had in plot and conflict development in "Casablanca."

"Our Love Affair" is so well-loved that it was again used in "Sleepless in Seattle," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

Classy performers

However, the use of "Our Love Affair" in the Grant-Kerr romance is more in-your-face in comparison to Max Steiner's more subtle use of "As Time Goes By" in the Bogart-Bergmnan-Henreid classic. Were Grant and Kerr not such fine and classy performers, the song's effect would have been rather saccharine.

The film is also greatly aided by a fine script first used in the original romantic comedy "Love Affair," starring Irene Dunne and suave Charles Boyer (1939).

Furthermore, Dooley Wilson, Jr. as the piano player Sam in "Casablanca" is vocally unexceptional. We can attempt singing the ballad without seeming presumptuous. On the other hand, Vic Damone, who sang "Our Love Affair," possesses a truly golden voice.

To imagine you could render the song as well as he does is the epitome of pride, if not ambition. Actually, Damone's near-perfect baritone draws attention to itself and steals the focus from Grant and Kerr in some crucial moments.

More demanding

"Our Love Affair" is also a more demanding song for eager would-be warblers to ape, no matter if they internalize the spirit of the ballad. Therefore, trying to interpret the song can be a frustrating experience. On the other hand, Wilson's rendition of "As Time Goes By" is within reach for ordinary folk.

However, both theme songs are universally appreciated to this day. There is hardly anyone over 30 who is unfamiliar with the two melodies. "As Time Goes By" is a classic rendered by crooners in any club of consequence. "Our Love Affair" has a lyricism most people take to. Furthermore, it was "resurrected" for the younger generation by the Hanks-Ryan romance.

Search

Both ballads represent great romance involving ardent lovers, roles we often give ourselves. We identify with the characters' adamant search for love and fulfillment. We rue the cruel twists of fate, along with the bum steers destiny often deals us.

Nevertheless, despite these challenging circumstances, love triumphs in the end. We weep with joy. We empathize. The elation we feel is duly supported by the lyrical music that speaks more than a thousand words.

The simple confession of eternal love in the lyrics transports us to heights only the symphonic orchestration can attain.

An added factor for appreciation is the fact that the lovers depicted in both romances are adults. The troubled lovers have been through the mill but now feel ready to make final, life-altering choices. They are prepared to settle down after many years of searching for the perfect mate. We silently agree, and root for them.

This rather naïve situation is saved by a fine script that provides some logic, albeit being oh-so-romantic for its innocent hopefulness. Meanwhile, we are mesmerized by music so beautiful that we are transported to another sphere where logic is not as vital as love and romance. The music is so effective that you love it even today, no matter if your teen years are decades behind you!

Mick Jagger donates money to his old school for music studies

LONDON—Rolling Stone Mick Jagger hasn't forgotten who gave him a good start—he has donated 100,000 pounds ($150,000) to help youngsters at his old school.

Programs

Dartford Grammar School officials in Kent county, southern England, said Monday that the singer wants the money to be used for programs that will encourage children to study music.

"I believe we should encourage children to sing and play instruments from an early age," Jagger said from the United States, where the Rolling Stones are on tour.

"I was really impressed with the facilities and the staff when I first visited the center and I hope that my contribution will help this great work continue and allow even more children to experience the thrill of making their own music.

"It is so important that they have a place like this where they can share their musical ideas and vision and be able to practice for as long as they like."

JAGGER. Wants the money to be used for music courses.

The school's music center, which opened two years ago, is named Red Rooster after the Rolling Stones' 1964 UK No. 1 hit, "Little Red Rooster."

Project director

The money will help pay for a project director to develop music tuition at kindergarten and primary school levels and provide free local string and wind instrument training, run in conjunction with Kent Music School and Trinity College of Music.

The center already has two state-of-the-art auditoriums, a 16-track recording studio and several music practice rooms. *AP*

Most respondents react negatively to Pres. Arroyo's TV spots

By Ronald Mangubat

THROUGH the years, government information as television ads has been getting negative reactions from the viewing public. It is labeled as propaganda meant to generate higher approval ratings for the administration.

Format

Surprisingly, the negative attacks on those government ads are not only in terms of content but also format. As an Ateneo professor remarks, "I've never seen a government spot that has good production values. Sadly, they're all mediocre."

The latest recipient of the public's flak is Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's television ad, which shows her walking along the halls of Malacañang, enjoining everyone to help her care for every Filipino family by making available basic government services such as inexpensive medicines and efficient transportation.

This is preceded by a dramatization showing a typical Filipino laborer who rushes to the MRT in order to be with his sick daughter, only to find out that she's recovering fast because of his wife's smart decision to buy medicine from a government drug store.

It is the same family who, several months ago, was able to purchase an electric fan through savings brought about by the government's PPA scheme, which seeks to lower the cost of electricity.

We asked 100 people about their reactions to the president's TV ads, and what they think those ads have done to boost the president's image. Our oldest respondent was 84 years old while the youngest was 17. Three are residents of Laguna while the rest are living in Metro Manila. All have finished college except for three who are still studying. Eleven have graduate and post graduate degrees.

ARROYO. Propaganda?

Eighty-five out of our 100 respondents reacted negatively to the president's ads. They said the ads were "arrogant," "hypocritical," "propaganda," "far from reality" and "a false fairy tale."

"*Huwag na tayong magbolahan,*" sniffs Aling Belen, 54, a dried fish vendor in barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque, "*Mas mahirap pa ako ngayon sa daga at ni minsan, di ko naramdaman ang pag-aalaga ng presidente!*"

Bubut, 42, a researcher at the state university, holds the same view. "It's political propaganda. Everything is unreal. They are invitations to the people's three Ds: disbelief, distrust and disgust."

Arrogance

"To me it's the height of arrogance," bristles Arnel, 40, a general manager of an agricultural company, "The ad seems to be saying, *'Ang galing-galing kong pangulo. Binabaan ko ang singil ng kuryente at presyo ng gamot, at wala ng trapik dahil sa akin.'* Even if it's true (which it obviously isn't) do you still need to flaunt it? Hello!"

"*Pilit na pilit,*" comments Noel Mendoza,

MOST/ D7

Tim Allen returns as top toyman in 'Santa Clause 2'

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Tools and toys. Tim Allen can't escape the trappings of his best-known roles.

Sequel

Formerly Tim "The Toolman" Taylor on "Home Improvement" and the voice of plaything Buzz Lightyear in the "Toy Story" movies, Allen returns as Big Cheese of the North Pole toy industry in "The Santa Clause 2," the sequel to his 1994 hit.

Allen wants to broaden his range, but he's not grousing yet about typecasting. Santa's too good a gig, he says.

And it doesn't hurt that the follow-up to his highest-grossing live-action movie comes after two bombs the past year, "Joe Somebody" and "Big Trouble." With a clever premise that's faithful to the first movie without simply duplicating it, "The Santa Clause 2" has the makings of another green Christmas for Allen.

"That would certainly please everybody that's relying on me to make their living," Allen, 49, said in an interview. "I don't rely on that, the box-office part of it. It's hard enough to be in this business without constantly thinking about that. I don't know who you emulate on that. There's only a couple of role models that don't ever bomb. So you just can't focus on that."

ALLEN returns as boss of the North Pole toy industry in the sequel to his 1994 hit.

AP

Modest successes

Until "Big Trouble" and "Joe Somebody," Allen had a solid resumé of second-tier movies to accompany his blockbusters. His comedy "For Richer or Poorer" tanked, but he had modest successes with the fatherhood romp "Jungle 2 Jungle" and the sci-fi spoof "Galaxy Quest." Allen's credits also include a supporting role as a movie-obsessed hit man in last summer's low-budget caper "Who Is Cletis Tout?"

In the original "Santa Clause," Allen plays a divorced dad who accidentally bumps off Kris Kringle, then begins transforming into the jolly old elf when he slips on Santa's coat. The new movie picks up eight years later, with Santa forced to search for a bride if he wants to keep his job.

Allen said the sequel took so long because he did not want to churn out a tired knockoff.

"You don't make a sequel," Allen said. "You make an independent film that's like an alias. It relates to the original but isn't really anything like the original."

The new movie presents Allen in the real world as he "de-Santafies"—losing his fat belly, white hair and beard—and tries to find a woman to settle down with him up north. He also doubles as a "toy Santa"—a plastic substitute left behind to mind the shop, a role that required a four-hour makeup job each day.

Lovable lunkhead

The sequel gives Allen, generally cast as a lovable lunkhead, a chance to play the heavy, albeit a comic one. As the toy Santa, Allen goes on a power trip, replacing his Santa outfit with a fascist uniform, deciding that the world's children all deserve lumps of coal and creating an army of giant toy soldiers to enslave his elves.

"He's a much better actor than anybody gives him credit for," said "Santa Clause 2" director Michael Lembeck. "Tim has this incredible comedy tool in his tool kit, but he also has wonderful acting skills. He's playing the villain, the hero, this amazing icon of Santa, and this Everyman character. He breaks your heart, he makes you laugh. He's such a simple actor who moves you based on how honest he can be."

While the toy Santa becomes a bit menacing, the movie still landed the family-friendly G rating distributor Disney is known for. Most of Allen's film and TV success has come with Disney, including the "Toy Story" movies and "Home Improvement," which aired on Disney-owned ABC.

Allen, who spices up his conversation with four-letter words and built a stand-up comedy career loaded with vulgar language, finds it ironic he wound up in partnership with wholesome Disney.

"It makes me smile all the time that what my standup was, to translate that into 'Home Improvement' is an amazing metamorphosis," Allen said. "They just took out all the objectionable stuff that kids couldn't see and put the rest into a sitcom, and it still works.

Likable

"It may be pretty edgy, but even in my standup, I'm a likable guy, because in my heart, I *am* a likable guy. On the surface, I'm pretty angry, like that grandpa who's always griping and moaning and attacking people, but you still like him."

His comic sensibilities developed amid adversity, including the death of his father in a car crash when Allen was a boy and a 28-month prison term in the early 1980s for selling drugs.

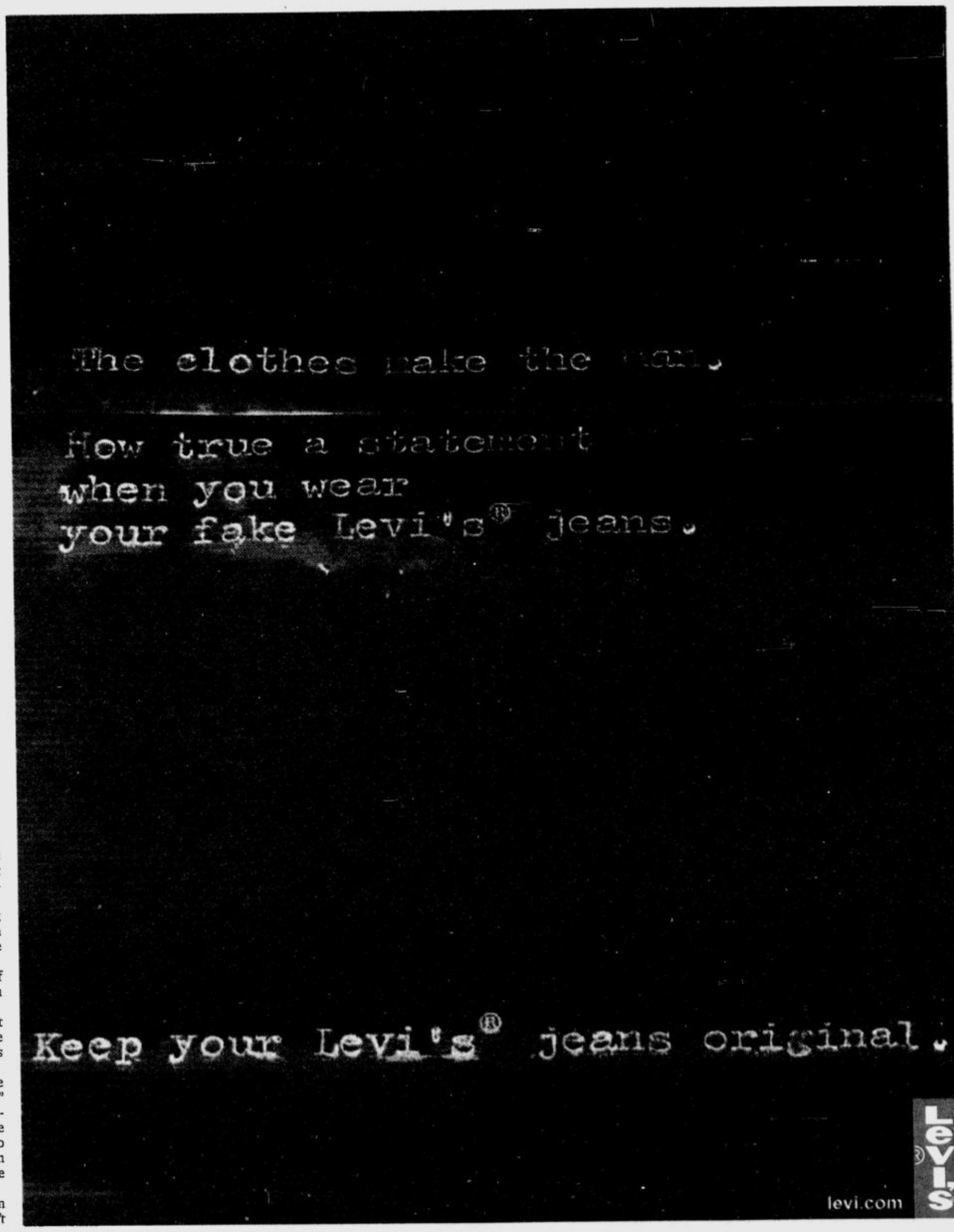
More bad times hit in 1999 with the breakup of his 15-year marriage to Laura Deibel, with whom Allen has a 12-year-old daughter.

Allen has scripts in development that would let him play darker characters. But he understands the studio resistance he encounters when he pitches anything that strays too far from comedy.

"Why would you want me in a dramatic role when there are guys like Tom Hanks, Mel Gibson?" said Allen, who then adopts a somber tone to simulate the sort of heavyweight dialogue Hanks spoke in "Road to Perdition." "You've got Tom talking to Paul Newman, going something like, 'Death is an alley that we all must venture.' Cut to me going, 'Are the elves ready to get on the horses yet?'

"I would love to do something serious, but can you imagine me going, 'No, Spartacus!' I don't know that you would want that. I think there's an opportunity for me to use the art I have and maybe be something like a likable villain.

"And I have the capacity to do a transformation, I've done a lot of that. So I could go from good to bad to terrible to good again, and you'd buy it. I have several scripts like that in mind. But the big studios don't like those ideas at all. They said, 'No one's going to buy you being a villain.' I said, 'Well, we'll see.'" AP



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

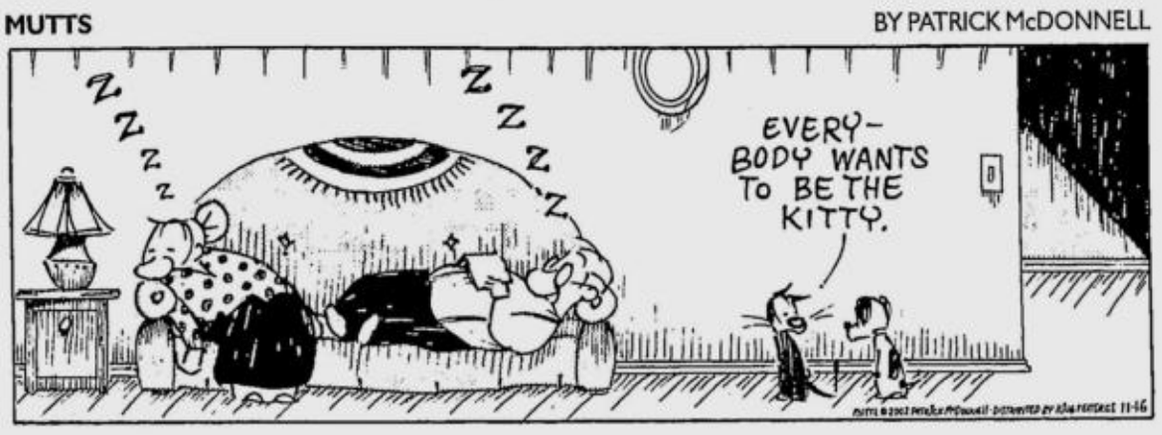
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

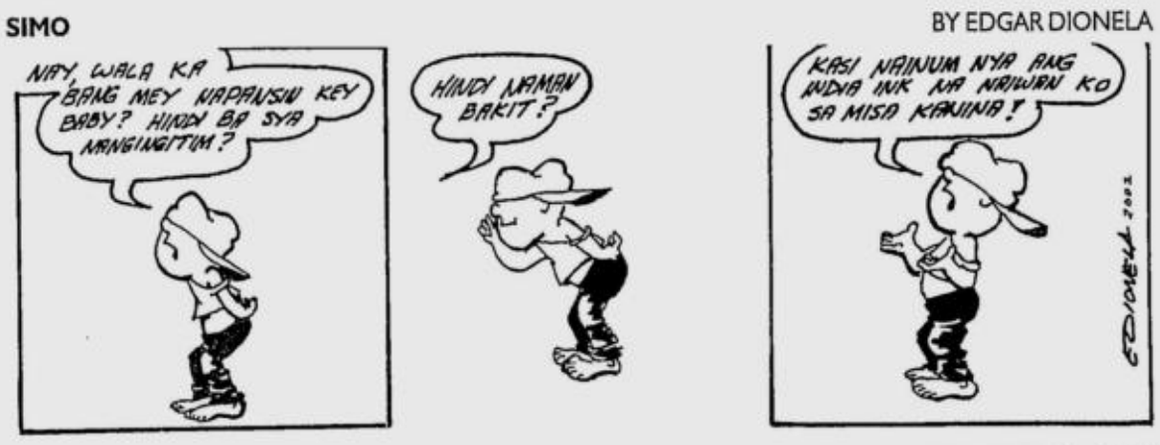
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Burgess Meredith, Dwight Gooden, Lisa Bonet, Martha Plimpton
Happy Birthday: Acting without proper planning or preparation could lead to added problems this year. Your job will be to decipher good advice from the bad. This will be a year dedicated to change, acceptance and compromise, and if you are willing to bend a little, you will be able to build a much bigger and better future for yourself. Your numbers are 3, 7, 12, 19, 24, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reevaluate your motives. Think twice about how you are handling those you love. Take time to look over your personal papers and make the changes needed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Talk to those who can shed some light regarding your career direction. You could make an appointment with a life coach and take some testing. Consider a little compromise in your personal relationships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Check out courses in your local area. You can get mental stimulation if you socialize with intellectual peers. This is a high learning cycle for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your desire to get involved with someone totally different from you may lead you in the wrong direction. Don't be too quick to think the grass is greener on the other side.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Depression is quite possible if you and your mate have not been communicating honestly. Express your feelings to one another before things get out of hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Social activities will lead to romance. It is a great day to pamper yourself or make those changes you've been longing for. You will be extremely pleased with the new you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may overreact to the inevitable changes in your home environment. Try to relax and figure out a way to make the alterations work for you. At work, be assertive. Stand up for yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be clear when giving or getting information regarding social activities. In this way you can avoid problems down the road. Love relationships can grow if you give them a chance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Real estate deals look good, so get out there and start looking. Matters relating to how you make your living will fluctuate. Try to be as flexible as possible; a change may be in order.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may change your mind more than usual. Don't let your confusion cause anxieties. Take one step at a time. Your patience will be rewarded.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Channel your efforts into work and achieving your goals. This is an excellent time to make headway in those areas. New emotional connections can be made through business contacts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take criticism too personally. Use it constructively if you feel it has any basis. Avoid making financial deals with individuals who are unreliable.

Birthday Baby: You will be a planner and an instigator. You will be dynamic, outgoing and someone who is at the center of things.

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

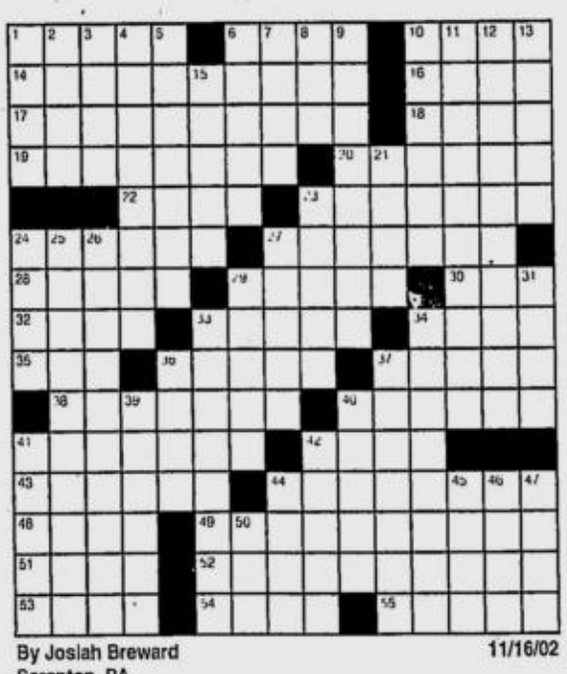
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
11/16/02

ACROSS
1 Bold observer
6 Synthesizer maker
10 Mehemet and Muhammad
14 City near White Sands Missile Range
16 Russo of "Get Shorty"
17 Predicted
18 Actress Blanchett
19 Glitters
20 Thin slice
22 Ross and Bering
23 Wailing lamenters
24 Discharges from wounds
27 Dakar's country
28 Goo-goo-eyed
29 Touches down
30 Man with a salty wife?
32 In addition
33 Sheds
34 "Rape of the Lock" poet
35 Salty sauce
36 Hall and __
37 Like some windows
38 Silvery-white metallic element
40 Sovereigns
41 Michael and Alf
42 In-office time
43 Different ones
44 E.R. cases
48 Firepower
49 Park at the tip of Manhattan
51 Weaponry
52 Annulment
53 Shuttle grp.
54 Lennon's Ono
55 "The Prince of Tides" star

DOWN
1 Lummoxes
2 Gooey mass
3 Actress Flynn Boyle
4 Ralph Waldo and Roy
5 Garden with stones
6 Painter Grandma
7 Repast remnants
8 Lyrical poem
9 Unexpected blessings
10 Following a trajectory
11 Ignore
12 Buttinsky
13 Visionaries
15 Bashes
21 Spike and Brenda
23 Jeff and Rockwell
24 Little devils
25 Certain soprano
26 Swift horses?
27 Capital on the Willamette
29 Water lily
31 Kennedy and Danson
33 Principal support
34 Tropical plant with fan-shaped leaves
36 Pervasive atmosphere
37 Pietistic Protestant
39 Black Sea port
40 Set new prices
41 Boston's airport
42 Forbidden thing
44 Job benefit
45 Simon or Sedaka
46 Jog
47 "Auld Lang __"
50 Pioneer TV-movie channel

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	H	A	R		R	O	S	A		A	M	B	E	R
R	A	V	E		E	N	I	D		D	E	A	N	E
T	H	E	T	I	M	E	T	O		E	N	J	O	Y
			I	D	A			R	A	N		E	K	E
A	E	U	R	O	P	E	A	N	T	O	U	R	I	S
E	R	N	E	S		D	U	S	T	I	N			
S	I	P	S		R	I	D		A	D	O	P	T	S
I	C	I		M	E	T	I	E	R	S		U	R	I
R	A	N	S	O	M		T	I	S		S	P	I	N
			T	R	I	T	O	N		S	T	A	C	K
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A	F	T	E	R		Y	O	U	U	N	P	A	C	K
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Stumped? Call 900-656-8900. 99 cents a minute

'Ash Wednesday' moves with relentless momentum

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—A drastic change in genre has worked wonders for Edward Burns, who has crafted his finest film yet after years of diminishing returns since a promising debut with "The Brothers McMullen."

Examination

Burns' Irish gang drama "Ash Wednesday" is a stark, wonderfully written examination of brotherhood, guilt, atonement and sacrifice that moves with relentless momentum to a harsh, inevitable conclusion.

The intimately photographed film has a cloistered, almost claustrophobic look that suits its themes of loss and reclamation among Irish-American Catholics in New York's Hell's Kitchen.

Writer, director, producer and star Burns presents a marvelous sense of uneasy community among the Irish, who are trying to retain their power as they watch their neighborhood slowly pass over to Hispanics and other new immigrants.

From key co-stars such as Elijah Wood and Rosario Dawson right down to bit players, Burns elicits unaffected, understated performances that feel genuine and inspired by the characters' passions of the moment.

Burns' films have gradually declined since "Brothers McMullen," from the romance "She's the One" to the drama "No Looking Back" to the weakest of the lot, last year's Woody Allen-esque ensemble stinker "Sidewalks of New York."

Sameness

There's been a whiny, smarmy sameness about the roles he's written for himself in each. With "Ash Wednesday," though Burns still plays a cocky know-it-all, his character's whininess modulates to fatalistic desperation as he struggles to live the straight life while circumstance inexorably draws him back to the street-thug world in which he grew up.

The movie opens in 1980 with a compelling prologue on Ash Wednesday, the start to Roman Catholic Lent, the season of penance before Easter. Bartender Sean Sullivan (Wood) overhears three gang members' plans to kill his brother, Francis Sullivan (Burns), a vicious enforcer for the Irish mob in which their father was a key figure.

Sean, the son for whom their father foresaw a future beyond a life of crime, pulls a pistol from behind the bar, follows the hit men to the restroom and guns them down.

The rest of the film takes place on Ash Wednesday three years later. Sean is presumed slain in retribution because an arm bearing his jewelry was found in the East River. Francis has gone straight, runs a dive bar and looks after Sean's wife, Grace (Dawson), and their young son.

Reports

The quiet life Francis has found is shattered by reports that Sean is alive and back in the neighborhood. Everyone demands answers from Francis: the local crime boss (Malachy McCourt); a mob rival (Oliver Platt) whose men Sean killed; a police detective (Michael Mulheren); and an assortment of henchmen.

Turns out Francis, with help from the parish priest (James Handy), took care of a hitman sent to kill Sean, faked his brother's death and spirited him out of town.

Against his brother's advice, Sean now has returned to collect his wife, forcing Francis to wrestle with taking up arms again to get Sean and his family to safety.

Like Tom Hanks' Irish mob tale "Road to Perdition," "Ash Wednesday" is a deceptively straightforward yarn that cuts deeper spiritually than it appears to at first glance.

Francis is a man of action who does not stop to moralize, but his torn conscience is visible in the subtleties of Burns' dialogue and demeanor. Adding to his emotional crisis is a relationship of longing that has developed between Francis and Grace in Sean's absence.

Though set in early spring, "Ash Wednesday" has an autumnal, journey's-end texture that is nicely complemented by Russell Lee Fine's dusky cinematography and David Shire's mournful piano score.

"Ash Wednesday," an Empire Pictures release, runs 98 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four. *AP*

DAWSON and Burns in stark, compelling Irish drama.

Most respondents react . . .

From page D4

32 an HRD consultant, *"alam mong* imaging *lang ang lahat. Ang* point *ko, kung ramdam ng tao na maganda na ang* quality of life *nila, hindi na kailangan pang ipagpangalandakan 'yan."*

"Obviously, *pakana 'yan ni* Dante Ang, which unfortunately fails," says Edgar I, 34, businessman, *"Maaaring yun ang tama nilang gawin pero,* it's done in bad taste."

"Wrong camera angles and shots *kaya na-e-*emphasize *talaga ng maliit siya at parang kenkoy maglakad,* comments Alice Nable of Makati. "Her spiels are okay but the delivery is awful, not spontaneous and with a singsong intonation. *Halatang* memorized!"

For Tony Marasigan, 38, chemist, GMA tries hard to reach out to the masses but unfortunately fails. *"Mukha kasing matagal ng nabenta ang* style *na 'yan.* Sorry, *pero wala siyang* effect *sa akin."*

"Mas maganda pa ang spoof *ni* Michael V *sa kanya,"* laughs Vida, a researcher. Franco, Vida's friend, says the ad has a "good intention but it's far from reality."

However, 15 out of our respondents liked the president's TV ads. They used words like "cute," "okay *lang,"* and *"maganda"* to describe the ad. Of the 15, 10 are government employees.

Masses

"GMA really has to gain a following from the wider portion of the masses," says Roel, 28, "Having her as president is a far better condition than the previous administration. But she really has to reach out more to the masses. *Hindi kasi siya* as charismatic as Erap, so she needs to strategize on that part. I really don't see the ads as early politicking or campaigning."

"I find the ad cute," raves Karen, 24, student, "I've always admired everything that the president does so hindi ko na dapat hanapan ng reason.

"Sa maniwala kayo't hindi, bumaba talaga ang presyo ng kuryente namin kaya feeling ko, *makatotohanan ang* ad *na 'yan,"* enthuses Edna Yap, 45, government employee. *"At saka* the President tries really hard. Let's commend her for that *naman."*

Artist Erlyn Jimenez likes the ad. She thinks it has good production values except that it's too hard-sell. "You can't help but think it's campaign material," she says.

"Maganda, may aerial shot *ng* MRT, *e,"* says Jerry E, 29, a basketball coach, *"Hindi lang na-*direct *ng husto si* GMA. Like that funny walk which is being spoofed in comedy shows."

For some people, GMA's TV ads are mixed blessings because despite the criticism it has been receiving, her approval ratings, they say, continue to escalate. Of course we've also seen her ride a surfboard, target shoot, pose with members of her cabinet *ala* "Men in Black," talk about her sex life and lately, wear an Assumption uniform. Those are different imaging initiatives that would require another survey for us to assess.

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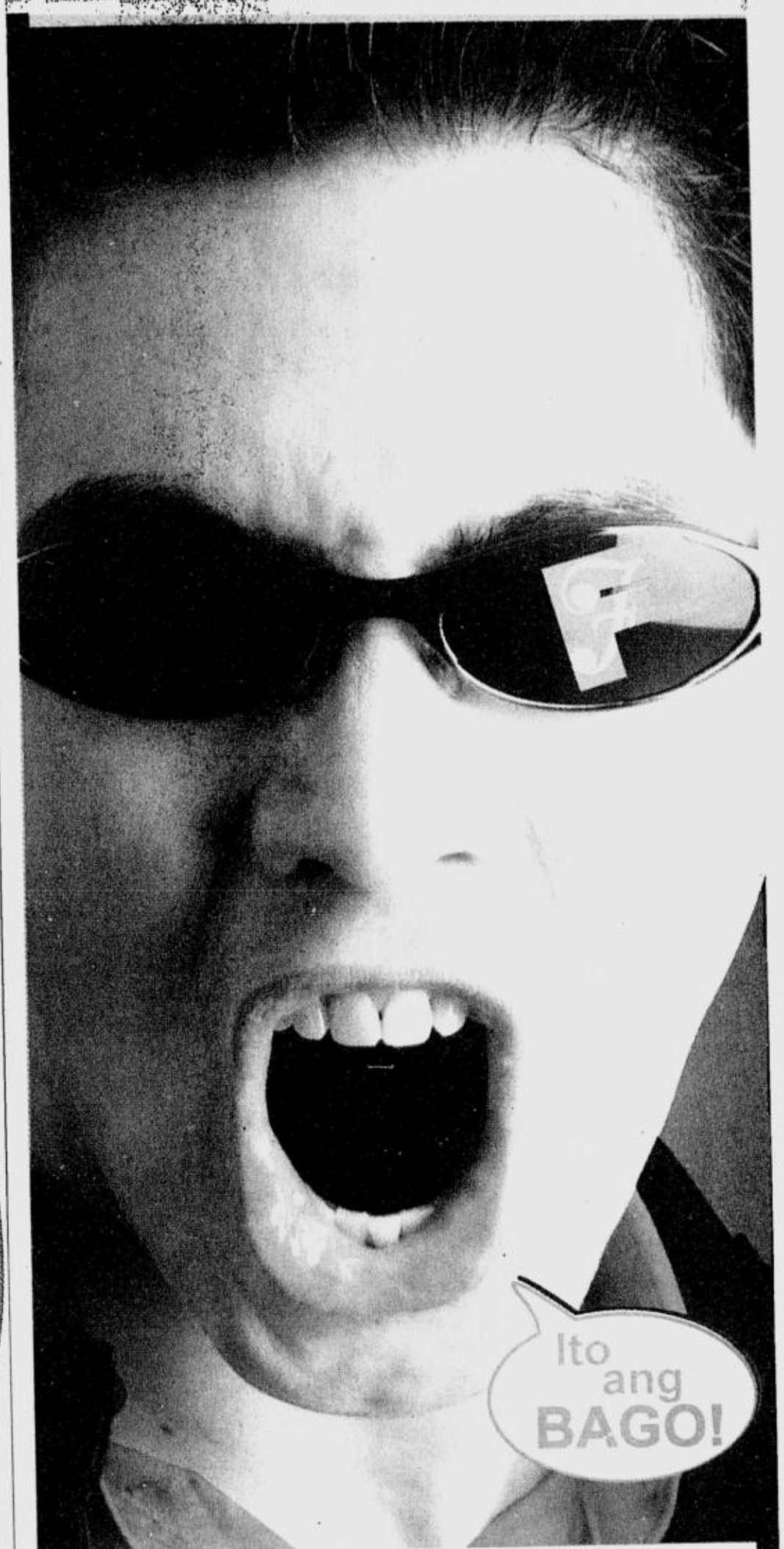

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SATURDAY *Special*

'Apocalypse Now' hailed as greatest film in 25 years

LONDON—Asked to name the greatest films in the past 25 years, 50 British critics and film writers have chosen Francis Ford Coppola's Vietnam classic "Apocalypse Now" as No. 1, and put two movies by Martin Scorsese in the top five.

BRANDO. In Coppola's film, which was shot in the Philippines, he plays a spaced-out officer being hunted down by a special agent portrayed by Martin Sheen.

Runner-up

Scorsese's "Raging Bull" was runner-up in the poll, which was organized by the British Film Institute's Sight & Sound magazine.

Ingmar Bergman's "Fanny And Alexander" came third, and Scorsese's "GoodFellas" fourth. The fifth position honored David Lynch, the famously quirky director of "Blue Velvet."

The highest ranking British film was Terence Davies' "Distant Voices, Still Lives" at No. 9.

Films dating from January 1978 to this year were eligible.

"Apocalypse Now," based on Joseph Conrad's novel "Heart of Darkness," includes Robert Duvall's famous declaration "I love the smell of napalm in the morning" before his gunships destroy a Vietnamese village, while a loud recording of "Ride of the Valkyries" blasts from speakers. It stars Marlon Brando.

Experiment

Nick James, editor of Sight & Sound, said that movie won because it's a richly complex, madcap experiment in war filmmaking that "never falls from the tightrope it walks between extravagance and profundity."

James said "Raging Bull" was a close second, thanks to Scorsese's direction, the wonderful texture of its black-and-white cinematography and Robert De Niro's performance as boxer Jake La Motta.

In August, another Sight & Sound poll chose "Citizen Kane" as the best film of all time.

Top 10

In the latest poll, the top 10 are:

1. "Apocalypse Now" (Francis Ford Coppola, 1979).
2. "Raging Bull" (Martin Scorsese, 1980).
3. "Fanny and Alexander" (Ingmar Bergman, 1982).

APOCALYPSE/ E4

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1/4 cup vinegar
2 pcs bay leaves
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
3 cups water or stock
salt or fish sauce

Preparation
Wash the pork and chicken pieces Heat a heavy saucepan and brown pork pieces Set aside In the same saucepan, brown the chicken pieces Set aside Put the pork pieces back into the pan and add the chopped and roasted garlic Add the vinegar and scrape the brown bits from the bottom of the pan Add the bay leaves, whole peppercorns and Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce Add 2 cups of water and simmer the mixture

When the pork pieces are half done add the chicken and the remaining stock and continue cooking until the pork pieces are tender and the chicken thighs are cooked through

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Lea & Perrins HOW DID YOU DISCOVER IT?

Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' voted best chart-topping song of the last 50 years

LONDON—"Bohemian Rhapsody," Queen's rousing rock classic, has been voted the greatest hit of the last 50 years, according to a poll released Saturday.

Operatic rock song

The band's 1975 operatic rock song came in ahead of John Lennon's "Imagine," and "Hey Jude" by The Beatles, which took second and third place respectively.

Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge over Troubled Water," and George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord" took the next two slots, according to the poll conducted by The Official UK Charts Company, which received 190,000 internet votes to compile the list.

The top two spots replicate the results of a poll published by Guinness World Records earlier this year.

"Bohemian Rhapsody," a six-minute epic that first topped the music charts in 1975, made it to No. 1 again in 1991 when it was rereleased to raise funds for charity following the death of the band's lead singer, Freddie Mercury—the first single to top the charts twice in the same version.

It is also the only song to have hit the No. 1 spot twice at Christmas.

Complex harmonies

In all, the song has spent a total of 14 weeks at the top of the charts. Because of its complex harmonies it was difficult to reproduce and the band were unable to perform it live.

The Beatles as a group claim 14 of the top 100 slots, way ahead of any other act. Contemporary stars barely get a look in, with only four tracks from the past decade making it into the top 100.

Just Kylie Minogue's "Can't Get You Out Of My Head," Elvis's revamped "A Little Less Conversation," Oasis's "Don't Look Back In Anger" and U2's "Beautiful Day" represent the past 10 years.

There have been 941 number one songs since the charts began 50 years ago.

"This list of the nation's favorite songs once again shows the enduring appeal of pop classics such as 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and John Lennon's masterpiece 'Imagine,'" said company spokesman Darren Haynes. *AP*

QUEEN. Their 1975 operatic rock song came in ahead of John Lennon's "Imagine."

SORIANO AND MONTANO. Reviving their roles in weekly ABS-CBN comedy show.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Cesar, Maricel reunite in sitcom revival

By Edmund L. Sicam

ONE year after the popular ABS-CBN sitcom "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis" aired its last episode, Cesar Montano and Maricel Soriano revive their roles as Buboy and Mary Magtanggol in the new sitcom "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis," airing today at 8:30 p.m.

The story starts seven years after the couple went to Australia, where Buboy underwent training as a policeman. Their son Junjun obtained a scholarship and is now in boarding school. The two have a new toddler who's staying with Buboy's mom.

The two eventually become homesick and decide to return to the Philippines to set up a business, but fate has other plans for them. Buboy ends up working for the police force again while Mary becomes the source of blind items for a gossip columnist.

Cesar, who has just completed a grueling shooting schedule for an international movie, is happy about his return to television, while Maricel is glad to be paired with him once again.

Also in the cast are Dyords Javier, who plays Cesar's boss, Smokey Manaloto and Earl Ignacio as trainee cops, Shaina Magdayao as Buboy's niece, Alwyn Uytingco as Shaina's best friend, Gloria Sevilla, Jenny Miller, Bearwin Meily and Hyubs Azarcon. Johnny Manahan directs.

Katha awards

The comedy trio of Tito, Vic and Joey teams up with recording stars Pops Fernandez and Sharon Cuneta as hosts of the 8th Katha Awards today at 7 p.m. at the PSC (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

All five started in the recording industry before gaining fame on TV and in the movies. They have also won trophies for Best TV Host from the PMPC. Bert de Leon directs this year's staging of the Katha Awards

NU Rock Awards

The 2002 NU 107 Rock Awards goes onstage on Nov. 20 at 9 p.m. at the World Trade Center. The show will be aired live over NU 107 radio stations across the country and will also be telecast at a later date on RPN-9.

Aside from the handing out of awards, several rock acts will take centerstage. Among them are Boldstar, Cheese, Chicosci, Daydream Cycle, Greyhoundz, Monsterbot, Pan, Razorback, Rivermaya and Slapshock.

Ryan Agoncillo, Angel Aquino, Michelle Bayle, Aubrey Miles and Diether Ocampo are just some of the celebrity presenters who will grace the awards night.

Over 5,000 people are expected to attend the "by invitation only" event. For a chance to win invitations to the show, tune in to dwNU 107.5 FM and UNTV UHF 37.

More bold movies

Why are producers churning out many bold movies despite the risk that they could be disapproved by the MTRCB?

That's because more and more top stars are coming out on television soaps, so moviegoers prefer to watch them for free on TV rather than watch a drama on the big screen. Sex and nudity are the only things you can't watch on TV so producers are turning to adult fare to attract the audience.

Jolo Films is coming out with "Gising na si Adan" directed by Felix Dalay and topbilled by Gary Estrada, who plays a tough law enforcer. He wants to avenge the death of his brother at the hands of mobsters but he encounters corruption at every turn. Providing the feminine charm are Aya Medel, Via Veloso and Allona Amor. Jeffrey Santos plays the bad guy.

Meanwhile, FLT Films has its own batch of sex stars in its latest offering, "Viajera." Heading the cast is veteran sexy star Barbara Milano, supported by Yda Manzano, Stella L., Rita Avila and Gladys Reyes and introducing Jeannette Joaquin. The actresses play waitresses in a restaurant owned by Daniel Fernando. Gardo Verzosa and John Apacible are truck drivers who frequent the place.

London Film Festival opens with showing of 'Dirty Pretty Things'

LONDON—Audrey Tautou, the actress who made her name in the French hit "Amelie," attended the opening of the 46th annual London Film Festival to watch her new movie, "Dirty Pretty Things."

Underbelly

Director Stephen Frears' film, about the underbelly of immigrant life in England, recently drew strong reviews at the Venice Film Festival.

Tautou, 24, dazzled the crowd outside the Odeon cinema in downtown London when she showed up dressed in a delicate chiffon top and trousers. In the movie, the French actress plays a Turkish chambermaid.

Other stars who showed up for the opening included Woody Harrelson, who is staring in the London play "On An Average Day," and actor Joseph Fiennes.

Guest list

Gwyneth Paltrow, the star of "Shakespeare in Love," also was on the guest list, but she failed to turn up, disappointing the many fans who had braved the rain to stand outside the theater.

The London Film Festival, which runs until Nov. 21, will showcase about 200 new films, including "8 Mile," which stars Eminem, and "The Quiet American," a Graham Greene thriller with Michael Caine. *AP*

BRITISH Director Stephen Frears (left) with actors Chiwetel Ejiofor of Britain and Audrey Tautou during a photocall in London to promote their new film "Dirty Pretty Things."

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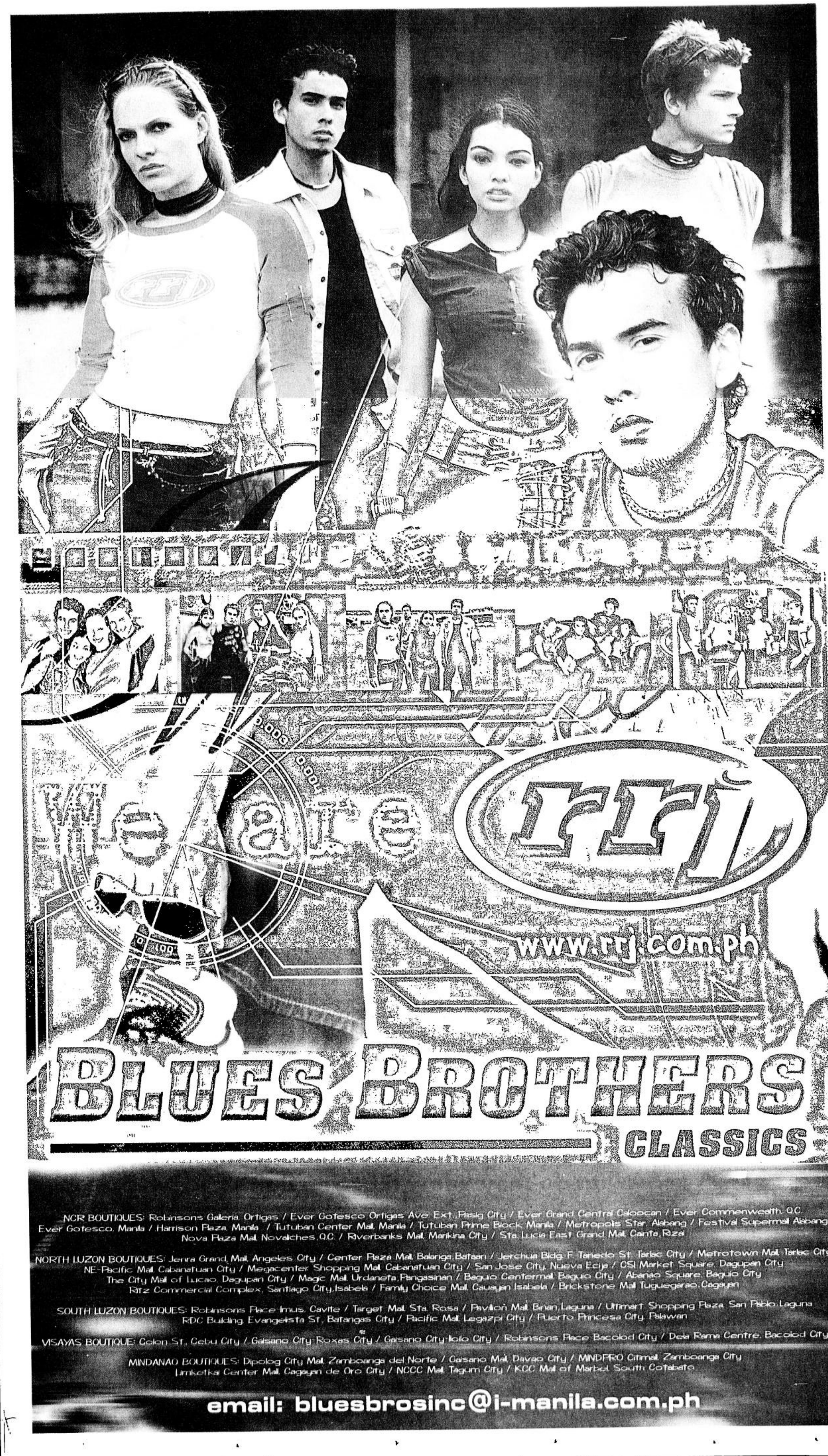

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'Musicat Music' at CCP

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MUSICAL Theater Philippines is mounting a special revue, "Musicat Music," on Nov. 20 at the CCP, with memorable songs from its hit theater musicals performed by Ogie Alcasid, Rachel Alejandro, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Ricky Davao, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Celeste Legaspi, Mitch Valdes and Regine Velasquez.

The well-loved songs are from such memorable and innovative Musicat productions as "Katy!," "Kenkoy Loves Rosing," "Alikabok," "Sino Ka Ba Jose Rizal?," "Larawan, the Musical," "Saranggola ni Pepe" and "Fire Water Woman."

Other performers are Nonoy Zuñiga, Roy Rolloda, Sam Concepcion, Eugene Villaluz, Carla Martinez, Kakai Bautista, Tekla Ordoñez and Noel Rayos. The special musical revue will raise funds for the restaging of "Alikabok" and the return of "Katy!" in a new production on Oct. 2003. Call 687-0656.

MITCH Valdes as Katy dela Cruz.

Wowie de Guzman

Over at Gantimpala Theater Foundation, the big news is the staging of "Ibong Adarna" on Nov. 16 and 17 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the RFC Cinema/ Theater at Alabang-Zapote rd., Las Piñas. The musical show stars Wowie de Guzman, Gary Oliva and China Cojuangco.

It's great that TV-film star Wowie de Guzman is appearing in theater productions, because his popularity is providing a major boost for the shows he stars in.

His participation is interesting his young fans in stage productions that they would otherwise ignore, and is thus making theater more accessible to the general audience, particularly the youth.

We hope that other show biz stars will also go out of their way to popularize the performing arts, and thus eliminate the line that unnecessarily divides "high" and "low" art in this country. There should be no such elitist distinctions—the only operative difference should be between "good" and "bad" productions.

Show biz performers like Wowie also learn a lot by appearing in stage plays, which are generally more demanding than TV tapings and film shoots, where mistakes can be corrected by reshooting, or by being edited out.

In theater, what you see is what you get, so performers have to be much more professional and better prepared.

Other performances of "Ibong Adarna" are set for Nov. 21-23 at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Nov. 29-Dec1 at St. Cecilia's Auditorium, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto, Malate Manila, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

WOWIE de Guzman (right) in "Ibong Adarna."

REGINE Velasquez was one of the stars in "Kenkoy Loves Rosing."

'TVM' performances

Today, Nov. 16, the final performance of the English version of "The Vagina Monologues" will be held at Music Museum, with Angel Aquino, Sheila Francisco and Belinda Panelo essaying various roles and monologues.

AT 9 p.m. on Nov. 22, 23, 29 and 30, the Filipino version will feature Gina Alajar, Pinky Amador and Angelu de Leon.

AQUINO, Panelo and Francisco in "The Vagina Monologues."

On Nov. 23 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., the Filipino version will be performed by Madeleine Nicolas, Mae Paner and Christine Carlos.

The English version is directed by Andrew Vergara, while Rito Asilo directs the "The Vagina Monologues" in Filipino.

Splendor in the grass

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Thank you ever so much, my precious one, for that wonderful moment we shared a day after your birthday, when we just vegetated in front of the idiot box to watch the immortal classic "Splendor in the Grass" (by the great film master Elia Kazan) which starred the splendid Natalie Wood and the utterly ravishing Warren Beatty.

I've lost count of the times I've seen that movie through the years but, I swear, watching it with you gave me more excitement than when I first saw it.

Good grasp

You amazed me, my dearest Clara. Not only because you swooned just as much as I did over Warren, but also because you had a good grasp of what the film was saying so very profoundly.

What though the radiance which was once so bright
is now forever taken from my sight?
Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass,
of glory in a flower we will grieve not.
Rather find strength in what remains behind.

We discussed at length this stanza from William Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality" which was excerpted in the movie and, I must confess, you impressed me by your pretty mature insights into it.

Youthful innocence

I guess, you were right. The poem spoke of youthful innocence, idealism and opportunities lost in the magic of the moment, and of how we should just move on with our life with whatever fragments are left of that which used to consume us.

But then, I'd like to believe that it also talked about virginity, raging hormones, sex and the very real need sometimes to manifest in the most physical way possible that which explodes beyond the realm of the senses.

Well, the movie was situated at the end of the Roaring Twenties, just before the stock market crash. That was a time of plenty and for pushing all limits. It was a very difficult season to be young, healthy and beautiful. But then, no season is ever easy for the young. I can even say that your season now is harder than mine was.

It is in this light that I'd like to share with you some insights I've discovered in my own personal journeys through life, from reckless youth to defiant and adventurous adulthood. This is not some philosophical dissertation on the abstractions of human nature. Rather, this is home-cooked stew for your young heart. Whenever you are faced with the confusions and vexations of growing up, take a hearty spoonful of it and, hopefully, you'll feel better.

Peer pressure

First, Clara, it's alright to not fall in love just yet. Peer pressure can be too much sometimes, pushing young girls like you to work themselves up to such a frenzy that they consider themselves worthless when they reach the age of 20 without having had a boyfriend.

My child, there are a lot of things that are more important in a young girl's life than the wet smack of a gangling kiddo pretending to be a gigolo.

There's sports, arts, hobbies—and all the gifts from God that you need to harness and develop to better enable you to gain the fullness of your potentials. Woe to the man who is condemned to a life of loneliness because he neither knew nor used the things God gave for him to be joyful.

Clara, there are dreams you

SPLENDOR/ E5

'Apocalypse Now' hailed as greatest film . . .

From page E1

4. "GoodFellas" (Martin Scorsese, 1990).
5. "Blue Velvet" (David Lynch, 1986).
6. "Do the Right Thing" (Spike Lee, 1989).
7. "Blade Runner" (Ridley Scott, 1982).
8. "Chungking Express" (Wong Kar-Wai, 1994).
9. "Distant Voices, Still Lives" (Terence Davies, 1988).
10. "Once Upon a Time in America" (Sergio Leone, 1983).
10. "A One and a Two..." (Edward Yang, 1999). *AP*

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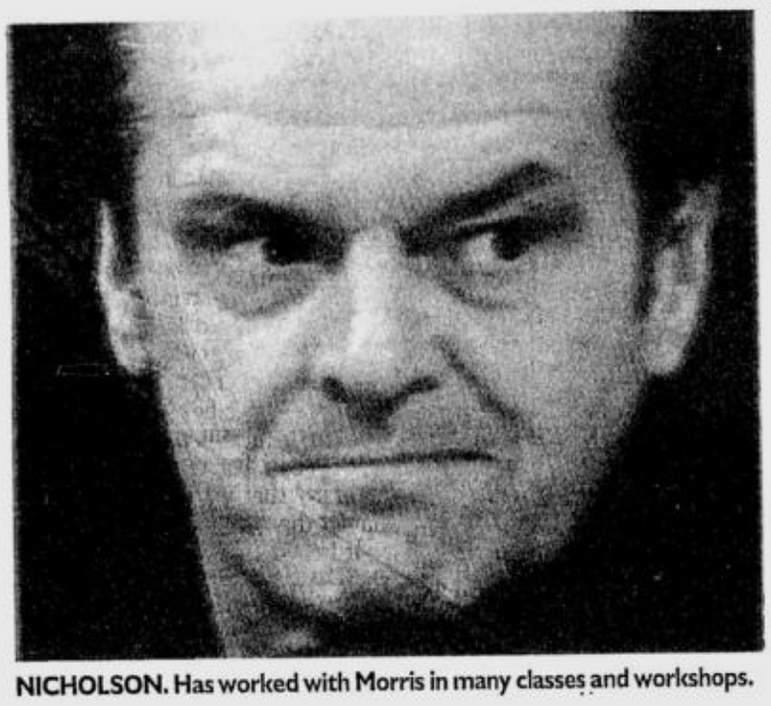

NICHOLSON. Has worked with Morris in many classes and workshops.

By Leia Torre

"NO Acting Please: Beyond the Method" is about "a revolutionary approach to acting and living." It's main thrust is on how actors can use their own life experiences in improving their work. The book contains exercises and activities that can help an actor in his quest for Being, as opposed to Acting.

Foreword

Its foreword is written by Jack Nicholson, who has worked with Morris in acting classes and workshops. His belief in the method Morris is espousing is complete.

A graduate of Dramatic Arts from Northwestern University's School of Drama, Eric Morris has been involved in an acting career that includes 20 motion pictures, 50 network TV shows, and 100 plays.

He has also written, directed, and produced an impressive number of films and stage productions. It is not surprising, therefore, that Morris has become one of the most sought-after acting coaches in the States. Actors such as Jack Nicholson, Sue Lyon, Pat Harrington, Greg Mullavey, Michael Parks and Linda Crystal are included in his list of former students.

Lessons

Joan Hotchkis contributes stories of the lessons she learned while studying with Morris. She graduated from Smith College and went on to become a member of Actor's Studio in New York City.

The book is interesting to read, whether you are an actor, are planning to pursue an acting career, or are just interested in acting in general. It is divided into four parts—"Being," "Getting Ready to Get Ready," "Common Sensory Acting," and "Preparation."

In "Being," Morris focuses on how an actor should get rid of the preconceived notions that have been forced on him by his family, peers, or society in general, and learn how to react to everything personally—"from an organic level."

Tension

"Getting Ready to Get Ready," is composed of ways an actor can deal with and substantially decrease tension. The author recommends that an actor recognize and accept that the tension is there, and expose it to everyone—because bottling it up simply serves to worsen it.

Recommended activities to deal with tension include "physical relaxers," "involvement group" (taking responsibility for others), "internal awareness" (what do I want?) and "external awareness."

Senses

In "Common Sensory Acting," the author teaches us how to use our senses in acting. Morris believes that the actor and the character he is playing are inseparable—"There is only *you*, there is no character. The character is you."

Therefore, for Morris, acting should come from life itself. Actors' emotions should stem from their real experiences, which they can recall by using their senses.

REVOLUTIONARY/E6

Splendor . . .

From page E4

must dream and heights you must try to reach—and you have it in you to go even beyond the frontiers of your best hopes and most ardent ambitions. But then, perhaps not—if you prematurely allow yourself to fall into the madness called love.

Yes, Clara. At your age, love can be pure madness. And you'll save yourself a lot of unwanted trouble, even a lifetime of regret, if you first decide to steer clear of it. Besides, at this point in your life when the entire world is unfolding in front of you and your whole life is a huge package just waiting for you to open it, you don't need love—yet.

Careless glance

But, having said all that, sometimes, love does come from the most unexpected places. When this happens to you, remember this: Young love is precisely that—young. The stars in your eyes, the fire in the belly, the weightless feeling of floating in the air, the breathless gasping for air when the object of your affection so much as throws a careless glance in your direction—they are all real.

So are the sleepless nights, knees going jelly on you, tears welling up and threatening to fall at the slightest and most irrational provocation, the feeling that the more you focus, the more distracted you are.

Then, you go along with your moods as they hop onto a roller coaster. You're the most beautiful one moment, the ugliest the next. You want to cry, laugh, smile and frown all at the same time. You're courageous and want to take on the world but when he so much as nods at another girl, you plunge to the depths of anxiety and distress.

Well, just ride on. Savor every minute of it, sink your teeth into every morsel of the experience—but don't allow your emotions to get hold of you and run away to places that you do not want to go—and would regret if you did.

Don't even dare to make hard decisions when you're young and in love. Allow time to test your feelings. And allow yourself to grow! For, at your age, everything is a growth experience.

Reason

Meanwhile, beware of boys who will try to get the better of you. Be alert. Always remember that there's a reason why God situated your head higher than your heart.

Don't allow those striplings to take advantage of your innocence and naivete. Don't let them fool you, dear child. They feign maturity, knowledge and savvy but, actually, they're just as inexperienced and scared as you are.

They put on oversized clothes and their best imitation of their hip hop idol of the moment but, inside that bulky exterior, is skin tightly hugging bone because muscles are barely sprouting yet.

And, hear this: The more in love you think you are, the more you should put your guard up. Here are lines you should watch out for: "I want you to prove your love for me." "I want you to give me the best birthday/Christmas/Valentine/graduation gift ever." "I want us to feel just how precious and special we are to each other." "I want us to share the experience of a lifetime."

Yes, I'm talking about sex and the cheap ways boys will use to get to bed with you. Just say no! If he can't respect that, go away. Believe me when I tell you he's not worth it. Don't even shed a tear for guys like that.

Hormones

The problem is if you can't say no.—First, because you love him so much that you're putty in his hands and his every word is your command. Or, because your own hormones are also raging and you have this overpowering curiosity to find out what the forbidden fruit tastes like.

Well, I can tell you in all honesty that it does taste great. So great, in fact, that it's worth *waiting* to share it with the man with whom you'll live the rest of your life. So great that it's such a waste to give to someone who's not man enough to wait for the time that it's perfect for you to partake of it.

I know, I'm embarking on a lecture now and you're not very fond of lectures, especially from me. But please listen: Sex is a gift from God and it should be used within the context that He gave it. As such, sex has two elements—the procreative and the unitive. Which means, it can only be done within the bounds of marriage—and premarital, extramarital and homosexual sex are not a part of God's design. End of lecture.

SPLENDOR/E6

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Fourth season of 'Digital LG Quiz Show' starts tomorrow

By Nestor U. Torre

RIGHT after its third grand finals last Nov. 10, the "Digital LG Quiz Show" is launching its fourth season this Sunday, Nov. 17 (10-11 a.m. on GMA-7) with a fresh batch of bright-eyed, intelligent and well-motivated high school whiz kids as its latest contestants.

2002 Grand Champion Laurence Lloyd Parial (center) is feted by quizmasters Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino, and the show's producers and sponsors.

Championship plum

From Sunday to Sunday, they will be competing for big prizes, culminating in the championship plum of over a million pesos in college educational scholarships.

As they answer one daunting question after another, they'll be hoping that they can be another Laurence Lloyd Parial, this year's new Grand Champion from the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, who copped the top prize only last Nov. 10.

The fact that Laurence comes form a school in the province has heartened aspiring contestants outside Metro Manila even more, because it proves that intelligence will find its reward, no matter where it is discovered.

Circle of wizards

For Laurence's part, he's particularly happy because the quiz show has launched its LG Circle of Wizards, made up of its three annual Grand Champions to date, as well as the elite club of the show's quarterly winners.

Laurence declares that it's a great honor to be in the same Circle of Wizards as 2000 winner Bryan Lagason and 2001 champion Andrew John Lena, both of whom are now studying at the University of the Philippines.

But no, there's no truth to the rumor that Harry Potter will also be joining LG's Circle of Wizards, which is open not to youths who can do magic, but to the brightest and most focused high school students in the land!

Director Pat Perez is gratified with the positive impact that the quiz show has had on youths like Laurence, who have been motivated to take their students seriously *and* creatively, and to actively regard their high school years not as a time for mindless "gimmicks," but to lay down the solid foundation for their future.

Quizmasters Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino proudly point out that the "Digital LG Quiz Show" is the country's only original concept-driven show presented in quiz format. Even better, it makes learning fun with high-tech graphics and imaginative segments variously titled "Password," "Picture," "Think-Tac-Toe," "Blockbusters" and "Megabytes."

Enthusiasm

Viewers share their enthusiasm for what the show is doing, and so do TV awards groups like the Star Awards for Television, which last year gave the program the Best Game Show trophy *and* the Best Game Show Host honor as well.

These twin achievements are made even more impressive by the fact that the "Digital LG Quiz Show" won over strong competition like "The Weakest Link" and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

In addition, the program has received the Anak TV Seal of the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television, a citation bestowed on shows deemed worthy of support by Filipino families, as well as the patronage of the country's education, business and religious sectors.

All these upbeat developments support the view that the fourth season of the "Digital LG Quiz Show," which starts tomorrow, will be its best one yet.

'El Abuelo' is a funny and touching film

By Noelani Torre

SOMETIMES, being old-fashioned isn't a bad thing after all, as is the case with the Spanish film "El Abuelo" (The Grandfather), José Luis Garci's unabashedly old-fashioned and thoroughly enjoyable *obra maestra*.

Featured in the recently held Pelikula: A Week of Spanish Films, this funny, touching movie was the choicest pick in an already exceptional selection of offerings from recent Spanish cinema.

Awards

Director Garci is one of Spain's most respected auteurs. He has won many Spanish film awards, and his 1983 film "To Begin Again," won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Since then, another four movies of his have been nominated for that category, "El Abuelo," among them.

The film is old-fashioned in the sense that the shots are done in the style of the old school of filmmaking—long, still takes with hardly any abrupt cutting. The shots are elegant and visually appealing—what with that gorgeous Asturian scenery and those splendid old Spanish mansions.

"El Abuelo" is set at the turn of the 19th century and tells the story of the old and impoverished Don Rodrigo, Conde de Albrit, who comes back to his hometown in Spain after a long, disastrous stint in Peru, in search of "ruins."

He meets his two charming granddaughters, whom he adores, but we soon learn that the old don has another preoccupation—finding out which of his two young granddaughters is "of his blood."

His strained relationship with his beautiful and wealthy daughter-in-law, whose marital infidelity he blames for causing his son's death, adds drama to the tale.

Formidable

Veteran Spanish actor Fernando Fernán-Gómez is formidable as Don Rodrigo and his performance won him a Goya, the Spanish Oscar, for Best Actor. With his long, flowing white hair and beard, his assertiveness, and his eloquence, Fernán-Gómez's Don is a dominant figure who, despite his poverty, still manages to cow the town's residents who scorn him for his lack of wealth.

These are the same people who suck up to Lucrecia, his daughter-in-law, whose influence with a particular government minister had greatly benefited the town.

To prevent him from "interfering" further in their lives, Lucrecia secretly enlists the aid of the town "leaders," a nouveau riche bunch of sycophants led by the Don's former servant, Senén.

Splendidly played by Agustín González, this deliciously hateful mercenary character has no respect for anything but filthy lucre. He is certainly not very likable, but he does illustrate one of the movie's themes—the ill that wealth can do to persons unused to having any.

Tutor

Another superb performance is that of Rafael Alonso, who plays Pío Coronado, the girls' kind—*too* kind—old tutor. He is as retiring as Don Rodrigo is forceful, but the two old men hit if off at once.

Painfully honest about his own personal shortcomings and weary of his hen-pecked life, he longs to jump off a cliff and get it over with, but can't quite come up with the courage to follow through. The Don promises to help him by volunteering to push him off the cliff, when the time comes! *(To be concluded)*

'Far From Heaven' is nearly flawless

By Christy Lemire

MOORE. Has come up with another Oscar-worthy performance.

NEW YORK—"Far From Heaven" easily would have been one of the year's best films, based solely on its exquisite cinematography and production design.

Observant script

Add an Oscar-worthy performance from Julianne Moore, and writer-director Todd Haynes' keenly observant script, and you have a movie that's nearly flawless.

Haynes' loving homage to the Technicolor female-driven melodramas of the 1950s looks and feels so authentic, it will make you forget you're watching a new movie.

You'll think you're watching a film by a German director whose heyday was in the '50s—Douglas Sirk, known for his visually rich, high-minded soap operas with a conscience, including "Magnificent Obsession" and "Imitation of Life."

"Far From Heaven" clearly uses Sirk's "All That Heaven Allows" as a launching pad. The 1955 film starred Jane Wyman as a wealthy New England widow who falls for her good-looking (and much younger) gardener, played by Rock Hudson.

Social status

Vicious whispers among the country club set tear them apart—he's her gardener, imagine!—but she comes to realize that love is more important than social status.

Haynes, who made the 1998 film "Velvet Goldmine" and previously directed Moore in 1995's "Safe," pours gas on what was then an incendiary topic by injecting issues of sexual orientation and race.

Moore is pitch-perfect as Cathy Whitaker, a housewife and mother of two who appears to have the ideal marriage to TV sales executive Frank (Dennis Quaid) in 1957 Connecticut.

But one night—after a series of nights in which Frank is working late—Cathy shows up at the office with his dinner neatly packed in Tupperware, and finds him kissing a man. Naturally, she's devastated, but must maintain the plastic, pastel veneer, so she sends Frank to a doctor for "heterosexual transformation." (This includes psychiatric sessions, and if those don't fix him, the doctor tells him electroshock therapy will surely do the trick.)

At the same time, Cathy begins a tender, tentative friendship with her gardener, Raymond (Dennis Haysbert)—who's black, and the widower father of a young girl.

When she's seen talking to him at an art exhibit, where he surprises her with his insightful interpretation of a Miro painting, the town goes into a tizzy. It doesn't matter that he's intelligent, kind and attractive—he is, as they call him, a Negro.

Pariah

And her relationship with him, however chaste, drags her from party-planning socialite to social pariah—and it threatens the safety of Raymond and his little girl.

It's easy to sit in the audience and snicker at the closed-mindedness; it's so archaic, it almost seems quaint. But really, in many ways, we're not that far removed from such Eisenhower-era misconceptions and prejudices. Episodes of "Montel Williams" and "Jerry Springer" are devoted to members of the hoi polloi shocking each other with confessions of sexual confusion and interracial romance, and some of us watch with car-wreck fascination.

Haynes' script transports us back to that time, and not just with expressions like "Where on Earth is your father?" and "I'm at my wit's end." It's what his characters don't say that conveys deeper meaning—the polite banter that disguises their repressed fears and desires.

Busybody neighbors

Besides the dialogue, every detail is perfect—from the legendary Elmer Bernstein's sweeping, string-heavy score, to Cathy's baby-blue station wagon and her matching gloves and handbags, to the busybody neighbors, to the children who are rarely seen and heard even less.

And the colors—my God, the colors!

Cinematographer Edward Lachman ("Erin Brockovich") achieves astonishing shades of red and green that couldn't possibly exist. And because the film takes place in the fall, during New England's peak foliage season, the leaves are such a bright yellow, they're practically radioactive.

That hyperreal look provides the perfect contrast to the substantive issues with which the characters are grappling.

"Far From Heaven," a Focus Features release, runs 107 minutes. Four stars out of four. *AP*

Madonna's film flop won't be released in Britain

LONDON—The movie "Swept Away" has been swept aside in a nation that likes to think of its star, Madonna, as one of its own.

The singer's latest movie, directed by her British husband Guy Ritchie, will not be screened at theaters in Britain because it flopped so badly across the Atlantic, its distributor said Friday.

MADONNA, with husband Guy Ritchie.

Disappointing

"Following the disappointing box office results in the US, Guy Ritchie's 'Swept Away' will not be released theatrically in the UK," Columbia Tristar said in a statement.

The film, a remake of a 1974 Italian movie of the same name, had been scheduled to appear in theaters in March but will instead go straight to video, the company said.

The movie bombed on its release in America last month, taking in $375,000 at 196 theaters on its first weekend, an average of $1,913 per theater.

By contrast, "Red Dragon," the third in the "Silence of the Lambs" series, raked in $17.6 million the same weekend.

Spoiled socialite

Critics have savaged "Swept Away," in which Madonna plays a spoiled socialite who goes on a Mediterranean cruise and becomes stranded on a deserted island with a sailor she'd tormented on board. He beats her into submission and they fall in love, only to have reality rip them apart once they're rescued.

The Associated Press called it a "cinematic shipwreck" and said it "completely lacks the imagination and spark of (Ritchie's) two previous films." Madonna, the AP review said, turns in "her most wooden, self-conscious performance since 'Shanghai Surprise.'"

Not that bad reviews in the past have in any way dented Madonna's box office pull in Britain. In May, the performer made her West End debut in an Australian play, "Up For Grabs," that was roundly trounced by critics—and sold out every performance. *AP*

Woody Allen has public session. . . From page E8

It may sound like a nightmare sequence from one of Allen's introspective films but this was the real thing as the shy, intellectual comedian participated in a lecture entitled "Psychoanalysis in the Films of Woody Allen," in the Kaufmann Auditorium at the 92 Street Y.

"My mother said I was a sweet kid for the first four years of my life. But then I turned sour," Allen told Dr. Gail Saltz, an assistant professor of psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital and a regular contributor on mental health issues for NBC's "Today Show."

Awareness of mortality

"There was no traumatic event. It was a mystery. I can only attribute that to an awareness of mortality, seeing what you're involved with, and I never recovered from that." The scrawny, bespectacled 66-year-old comedian, wearing a gray sweater as he sat across a coffee table from Saltz, discussed his experiences, his movies and his disappointments.

But he would not give much credit to psychoanalysis.

"There were no dramatic moments. No insights. No tears," Allen said about his decades in therapy, which began more than 40 years ago when he was writing comedy for television programs in his mid-20s.

"People used to say 'you're using psychoanalysis as a crutch,' that was very common. And I would say, 'Yes. You're hitting it exactly on the nose. I'm using it as a crutch.'"

Allen, who apparently is off the analyst's couch these days, conceded that psychiatrists helped him through difficult times and broke up his days of isolation.

"It got me through periods of my life when I was very unhappy and was insecure," said the quirky auteur, who writes, stars in and directs his films. "Just the act of having someone to speak to, someone interested in my problems in some way was helpful to me." Allen said his life was great these days with his wife Soon-Yi, who was the adopted daughter of his former lover, Mia Farrow, but that he is still dogged by pessimism.

Pessimistic

"I'm very happy. I love being married. I love being a father," he said. "But I'm still a pessimistic person. This is probably the best time that I've had and I deserve it." Allen, who has been nominated for more than a dozen Academy Awards, won three Oscars and received a lifetime achievement award this year at the Cannes festival, said he has not lived up to his own expectations.

"I had grandiose plans for myself when I started," he said. "I had a much grander conception of where I'd end up in the artistic firmament.

"What makes it particularly poignant is I've had great artistic freedom in a medium where people don't get that freedom," said the man whose films include "Annie Hall," "Manhattan," "Hannah and Her Sisters" and "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

"The only thing standing between me and greatness is me," said Allen, who said he would have traded his comic muse for a gift for drama. "I feel I should have done better." *Reuters*

Revolutionary approach to acting and living From page E5

Portrayal

This re-creation doesn't come easily, but once an actor is able to recreate an experience that produced a particular feeling, his portrayal of the character will be honest and real— "...Reality is the only place you can act from organically." Organic acting, for Morris, is important for an actor to achieve.

"Preparation," details other ways by which an actor can enrich his acting "vocabulary." Two of the more fascinating are Believability and Vulnerability.

To be vulnerable is to be open to all kinds of experiences. Vulnerability between actors helps them relate better to one another, and consequently makes the scene they are playing more sincere.

Believability is taking something that you know is untrue, and making yourself believe that it *is* true. This ability will greatly assist the actor in situating himself in the situation where his character is placed.

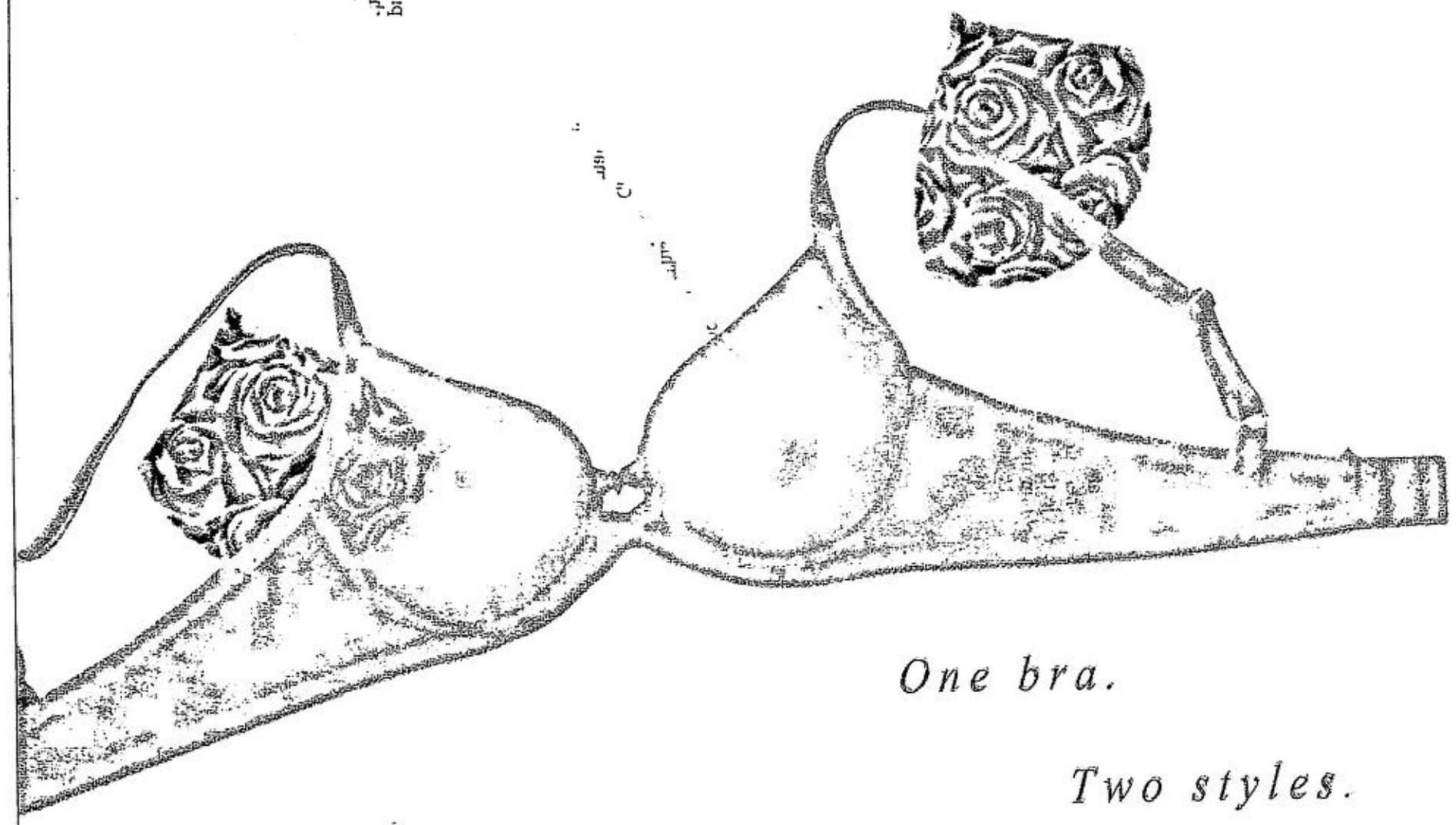
Reading this book will help actors achieve their full potential.

Splendor . . . From page E5

There are girls who do end up with the boy who first made their hearts flutter—but they are quite few. Don't be too disheartened when you're not one of them—you're still perfectly normal.

And when love does come to an end, it's alright to cry—even a river—but don't wallow in the mud that the solid earth you're standing on has become because of your tears. Also remember that mud will harden and become solid earth again only if you stop the tears from falling! *(To be concluded)*

For your insights and comments: <badids2000@yahoo.com>



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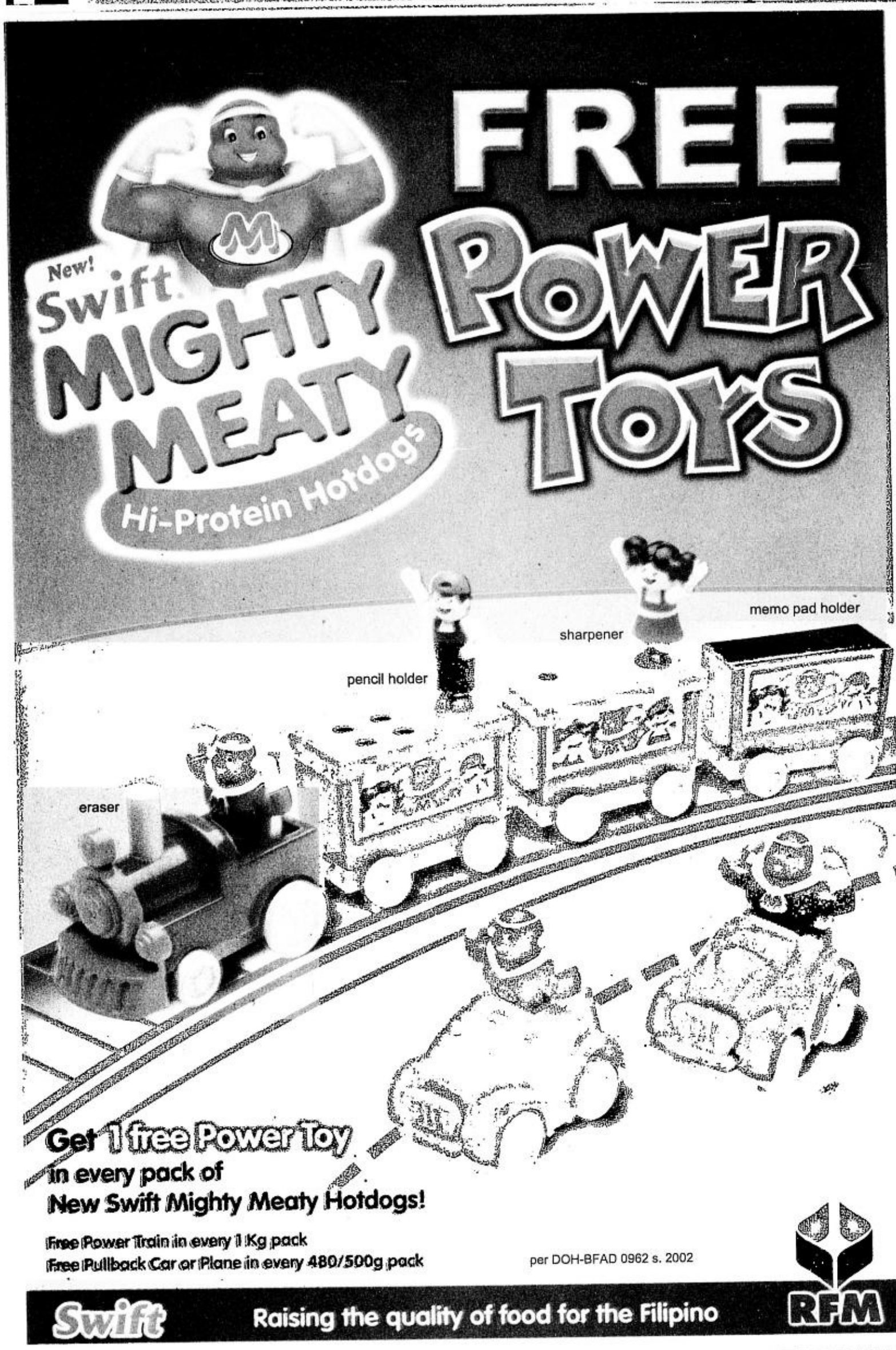


Culinary pleasures and musical delights brighten nights at Tapika

By Nestor U. Torre

THE EVENING started out quite mildly, enigmatically hiding the musical pleasures it would later reveal.

We met some friends at the Tapika restaurant on Katipunan rd., QC, on the Libis side near the overpass leading to the Ateneo de Manila, dawdled over a tasty dinner until 9 p.m., and then went up to the second floor, where even tastier aural delights awaited us.

Acoustic entertainment

It turned out that, aside from being a fusion restaurant, Tapika has made a name for itself with its nightly acoustic entertainment. Its young entertainers are variously soloists, duos and trios, each of whom has his or her own style and following.

The night we were at Tapika, the entertainment was provided by the trio Hourglass, made up of young, gifted and charismatic performers who are able to combine formal training in music with a laid-back and warmly giving performance style.

As Hourglass performed, the second-floor venue quickly filled up with a generally young audience who, we were told, came from the colleges and universities close by. It was a musically hip crowd that appreciated the group's light, bright and very engaging performance.

Musical bonus

That same night, Tapika's star soloist, Paolo Santos, was in the audience with his dad, our friend Vergel. Later that night, we were informed, Paolo jammed with Hourglass during one of its subsequent sets, and the crowd was ecstatic over this surprise musical bonus.

Too bad (for us), we missed Paolo's impromptu guest stint because we had to rush to another appointment after Hourglass' first set. But we promised to go back for Paolo's full performance another night.

Paolo may be a stellar attraction at Tapika and other acoustic musical venues, but his popularity clearly hasn't gone to his head. The night we met him, he was surrounded by admirers, yet he was completely natural, at ease, and with none of the show biz *porma* that we usually associate with rising musical stars.

Radio program

We heard that Paolo's rise has been hastened by the fact that he has his own radio program, where he sings and accompanies himself on the guitar. Once more, the power of radio to jump-start musical careers has been reaffirmed.

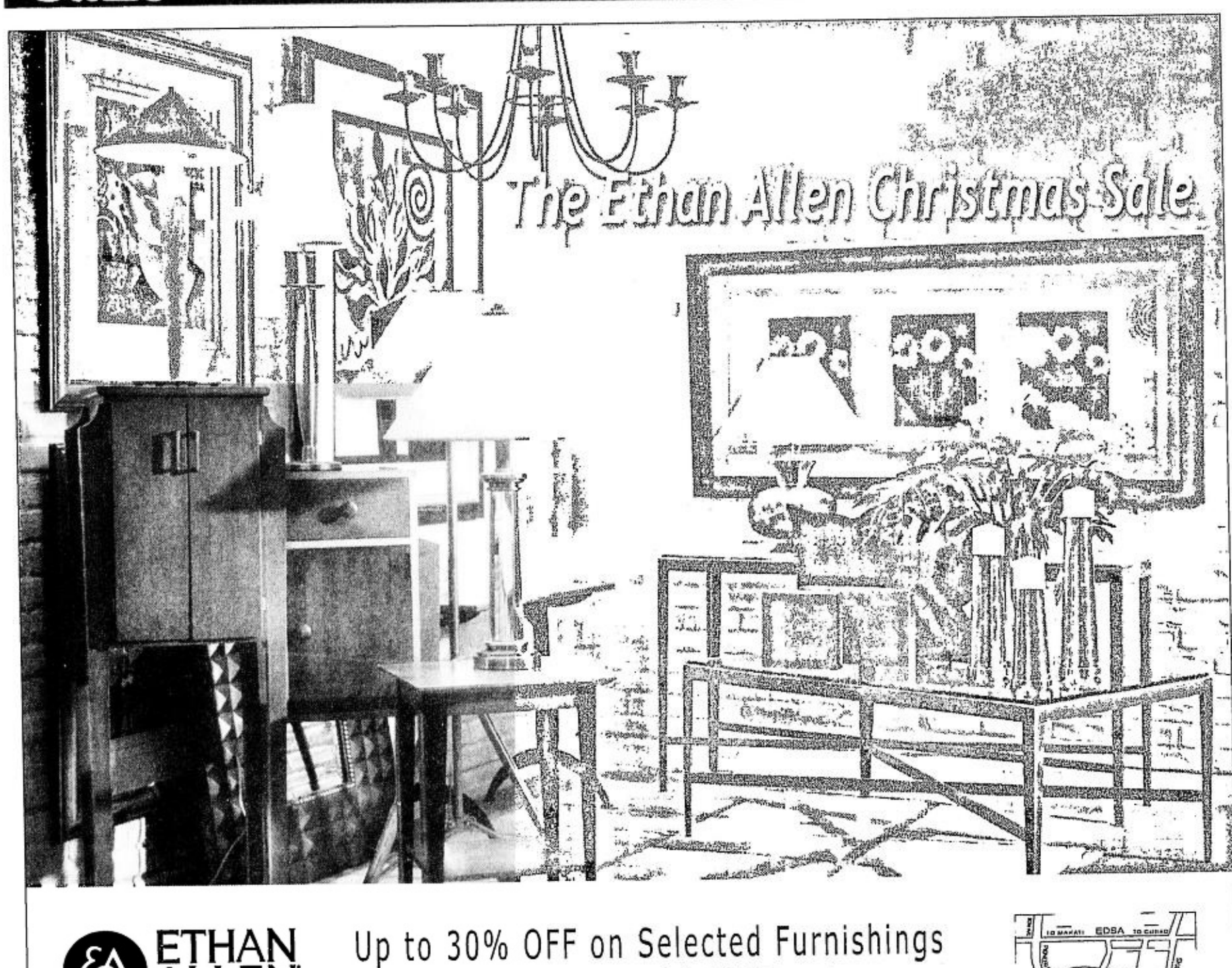
This early, Tapika is being talked about as a venue for other musical performers on the way up, aside from Hourglass and Paolo Santos. True enough, the other soloists and groups featured at Tapika have their own loyal groupies who fill up the place's second-floor entertainment venue. The "unknown" or "less-known" singers we hear at Tapika today could be the alternative musical stars of tomorrow.

Surprises

The fact that they're performing nightly at Tapika has brightened Katipunan rd's. restaurant strip, and made it the place to go in Quezon City, not just for fine or hearty dining, but for delightful musical surprises, as well.

Catch these artists at Tapika this month, why don't you?: Monday, Soul Acoustic. Tuesday, U Turn. Wednesday, Dominic and Burton. Thursday, Dual Sound. Friday, Hourglass. Saturday, Invocan. Sunday, Stoneface.

U Turn performs on Tuesday nights.



Woody Allen has public session with psychiatrist

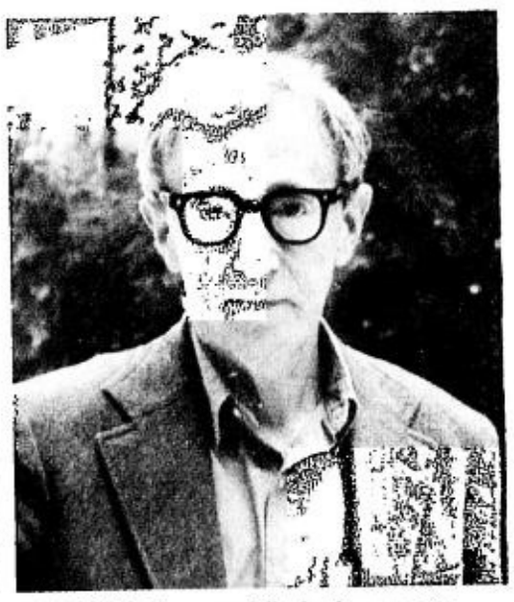
By Larry Fine

NEW YORK—Woody Allen went one-on-one against a prominent psychiatrist on Thursday night last week in front of more than 800 people, fending off a stream of suggestions on how psychoanalysis affected his life and work.

References

"There is no profound significance to any of the dream sequences in my movies," proclaimed Allen, whose films are full of references to analysis and slapstick sexual imagery. "I made it all up." "After eight years with one of my analysts, I wanted to get up from the couch and offer my hand and say 'draw.'"

WOODY/ E6



ALLEN. His films are full of references to analysts and slapstick sexual imagery.

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Andrea Bocelli sings old, forgotten arias in his latest album

BOCELLI. Records one album a year.

LONDON—Opera singer Andrea Bocelli has returned to his childhood and dusted off some forgotten arias for his new album.

Collaboration

The Italian tenor's latest album, "Sentimento," is a collaboration with conductor and violinist Lorin Maazel. The pair wanted to revive a fashion for performing violin and voice duets.

"This is a collection of old songs, of arias that describe love. I am particularly fond of them because they also belong to my childhood," Bocelli said in an interview with Associated Press Television News. His new album's tracks include "La Serenada."

"They are also arias that have been unjustifiably forgotten. These are arias that have been loved more abroad than in my own country."

Of the piece, "En Aranjuez Con Tu Amor," Bocelli said it is "like a very strange sort of competition that is engendered by the voice and violin, which ends as a form of collaboration."

Lawyer

Born in 1958, the blind Bocelli grew up in a close-knit farming community in Tuscany, Italy, and became a lawyer before embarking on his musical career.

His 1994 debut album went platinum within weeks, and he become one of the world's most successful recording artists, producing best-selling albums at the rate of around one a year. *AP*

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7 It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook — Rod Stewart — keyword: feeling — keyword: wayuloo
8 Stripped — Christina Aguilera — keyword: beautiful — keyword: stripped
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12 Live Series — Various Artists
13 Nellyville — Nelly
14 Chasing Time — Martin Nievera
15 Jazz Café Series: Cappuccino — Various Artists
16 Simply The Best 60's — Various Artists
17 I Wanna Get Close — Freestyle
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19 Jazz Café Series: Latte — Various Artists
20 Forty Licks — Rolling Stones
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Pioneering Filipino film directors rediscovered

By Nestor U. Torre

THESE days, there are many Filipino movie directors. An "interesting" thing about the local movies scene is the fact that, even if you've directed only one film in your life, you will forever be called *"Direk."* So, there are literally hundreds of *direks* on the local film scene!

Earliest days

But who were the pioneering directors of films in the Philippines? A trip back to the earliest days of our cinematic past reveals that the first movies shot here were done by foreigners, mostly Americans and Britons.

Many of those filmclips were very brief mini-documentiaries that recorded local street scenes, activities or important events. Later, some story films were attempted, but they also ran for only a few minutes.

In 1912, two different movies were made on the life and death of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, but again by foreigners. Then, in 1913, the film "La Sombra de la Armada" is credited to two directors, Marcelino Vera and Gregorio Balberan—possibly the first Filipinos who directed story films. They also shot "Espiritu Maligno" in 1913.

First feature film

Next, in 1917, Luis Camas megged "The Apache Waltz" and "La Purga de Suarez." Then, in 1919, Jose Nepomuceno directed his first feature film, "Dalagang Bukid." It was based on a zarzuela of the same title and starred the same actor-singers who had appeared in the original stage presentation—Atang dela Rama, Marceliano Ilagan, etc.

With his first film's success, Nepomuceno's film company, Malayan Pictures, quickly established itself as the dominant local film production company in the country.

MARY Walter and Manuel Ramirez in Jose Nepomuceno's "Maria Luisa."

The popularity of its releases encouraged other Filipinos to go into film production and direction. It's no wonder, therefore, that Nepomuceno has been cited as "the father of Philippine movies."

Family of artists

What made Nepomuceno pioneer in filmmaking? He came from a family of artists and himself studied art at UP—but he also took up a course in electrical engineering. This combined interest in art and science would later serve him well when he engaged in the art and craft of filmmaking.

Before he "dared" to shoot his first feature, he first opened a photo shop and did subtitles for imported movies. Then he bought a second-hand movie camera and became a cameraman for US newsreels.

In 1917, when he put up his pioneering movie studio, he was thought to be foolhardy because local viewers at the time were fixated on movies imported from Hollywood, and on productions shot locally by foreign filmmakers.

Visionary

But Nepomuceno couldn't be dissuaded from filming "Dalagang Bukid," which would later be hailed as "the first entirely Filipino-made (feature) film." This was because he was not just a businessman but also a visionary who wanted to make movies that spoke—and sang—of his country's traditions and aspirations.

Indeed, the film was praised for boosting the screen image of humble farming folk, over the oily machinations of the movie's wealthy characters.

This may have been stereotypical in the opposite direction, but local viewers appreciated it because it finally gave them screen characters with whom they could identify.

Hit

So, Nepomuceno's first feature was a hit, and audiences yearned for more of the same, which he was only too happy to keep supplying in the '20s.

On the other hand, "Dalagang Bukid" was faulted for being of poorer quality than the European and American movies that local viewers were used to watching. In particular, it was criticized for its fuzzy images and bad lighting, flaws which the filmmaker tried hard to remedy in his succeeding productions.

BALBOA, Zubiri, Perez and Velayo play unfaithful wives and husbands in "Kasiping."

Passionate foursome in Seiko flick

By Remy M. Umerez

A COMBINATION of the old and the new characterizes Seiko Film's coming attraction, "Kasiping."

More daring

Says producer Robbie Tan about his stars: "Diana Zubiri and Rodel Velayo were so successful in 'Bakat' that I decided to bring them back in a more daring story about marital mess. The presence of Halina Perez should add excitement, and comparison is inevitable.

"Although I know that she and Diana hit it off well on the set, there was an unspoken competition the day they found out they would both star in the movie. Dante Balboa is totally new and projects a fresh kind of sex appeal on the screen. A combination of the old and the new is always a winner at the box office."

Seiko also welcomes Mel del Rosario, who wrote the movie's screenplay, and Romy Vitug, who did the cinematography.

Del Rosario has been identified with Viva Films where her recent script was for "Magkapatid," a Sharon Cuneta/Judy Ann Santos starrer. In the past, Seiko has commissioned Lualhati Bautista to write the company's screenplays.

Awardee

Romy Vitug is a Famas hall of fame awardee for cinematography, aside from the other awards he won at the Urian and PMPC Star Awards.

"The competition today is not just for the boldest but also for the most prestigious and distinctive, so we are getting the best names in the business, and Vitug is one of them," Tan says.

Seen through Vitug's camera, Robbie observes, the beauty of his two female stars glows more brightly. Romy says that he finds Diana a photographer's delight.

As for Halina, she is simply thankful that she had finally been signed up by Seiko.

The creative team of "Kasiping" is topped by director Augusto Salvador, also a Famas awardee.

"Kasiping" dramatizes the entangled passions of two young couples who live in the same condominium. Diana and Halina portray two passionate but unfaithful wives, with Rodel and Dante as their respective husbands who try to bring normalcy back into their troubled marriages.

Insider's view of 'Heaven's Gate,' one of Hollywood's greatest flops

Bach's book reveals the anatomy not only of a catastrophe, but also of an art form that is an industry

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

PRODUCER Steven Bach puts everything in historical perspective in his book "Final Cut," Dreams and Disaster in the Making of 'Heaven's Gate'," including the recent and not so recent history of United Artists, the studio he had unwittingly helped demolish.

UA was formed by the Big Four—Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, D.W. Griffith and Douglas Fairbanks—in 1919. They did so, says Bach, "in hopes of resolving the 'art versus business' conflict." It was thus one of the oldest companies and the only major one founded by creative people. By the time of the making of "Heaven's Gate" it had also earned the reputation of being a grantor of independence and artistic freedom.

Aghast

What was it exactly about "Heaven's Gate" that caused it to fail so spectacularly? It cost too much money, for one—the initial budget was $11.6 million and it went up to $44—and the industry, still unused to such things back then, was aghast at the seemingly mediocre result of all those big bucks.

Directed by hotshot young Michael Cimino, who had just won two Oscars for his previous film "The Deer Hunter," the film went through a grueling production process caused mainly by the director's refusal to cooperate with UA. Cimino was allowed to run disastrously amok, though Back is quick to assert: "I believe there to have been not one day or one moment . . . in which Michael Cimino intended anything other than to create a 'masterpiece,' a work of lasting art."

KRIS Kristofferson played the male lead in Michael Cimino's ill-fated movie.

Editing

After a highly disappointing premiere, the company withdrew the picture from exhibition in order to salvage it through more editing and polishing. But, it just wasn't salvageable.

"Press reaction went beyond ambushing Cimino and the movie, to encompass finally the company and the industry in which 'Heaven's Gate' had happened," wrote Bach.

"I think it likely that audience and critical perception of Heaven's Gate' as a failure . . . came not only from awareness of the scandalously undisciplined method of its manufacture but also from a deeper, more disturbing failure of discipline in the picture itself.

"Not only the filmmaker, but the film, too, was 'out of control.' It failed to engage audiences on the most basic and elemental human levels of sympathy and compassion, and this failure is crucial . . ."

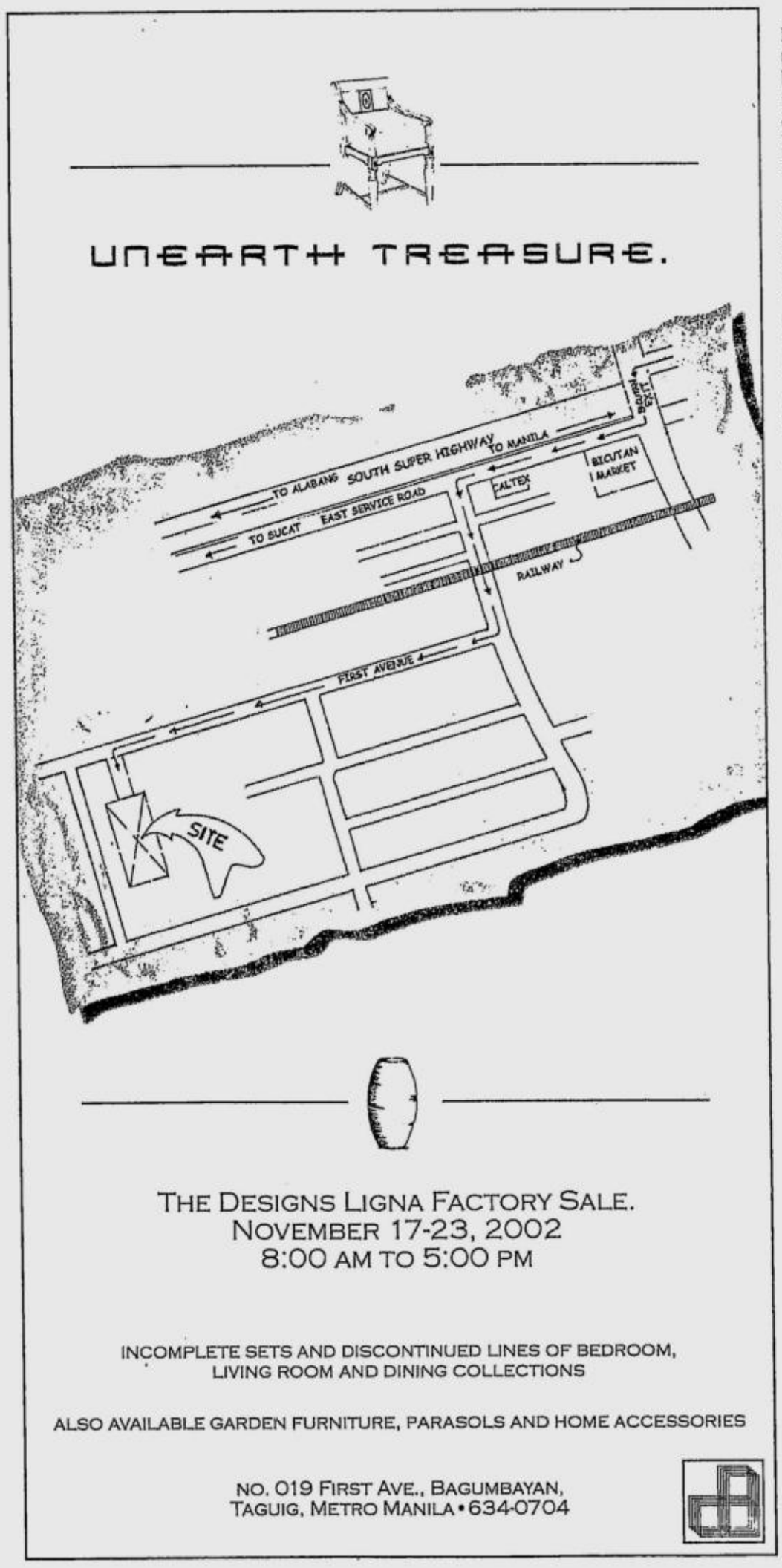
It's clear that Bach didn't like the film that he helped produce, and he certainly wasn't alone in his opinion, though he does credit the press and the critics for being responsible for making "Heaven's Gate" not just another failed movie, but a "phenomenon."

"This wasn't 'an unqualified disaster' or 'a phenomenon,'" wrote Bach. "This was just—a flop." Unfortunately, it caused Transamerica Corp. UA's parent company, to rid itself of its entertainment arm. UA was put up for sale and was bought by GM, hence today's MGM/UA.

Debacle

"Within three years of the 'Heaven's Gate' debacle," said Bach, "the management of every major company in the motion-picture industry had changed . . . Such instability precludes continuity and development not only in the industry but in 'the art form of the 20th century' itself, and one might fairly ask how discipline and responsibility can be expected from artists who know that the only continuities in the business are those of their own work and those derived from conglomerates who, for the most part, own Hollywood and are not, as we have seen, afraid to walk away."

This is only one of the few hard questions that Bach raises in the course of this book, which gives us not only the anatomy of a catastrophe but also of an art form that is an industry.



TWO FOR THE SHOW

Ogie Alcasid energizes the lounge scene

By Mary Ann Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

THERE'S nothing small about Ogie Alcasid. We immensely enjoyed his 90-minute show at Tavern on the Square recently, where the diminutive singer stood exceptionally tall dishing out one song after another.

He's definitely at home with his straight-to-the heart ballads—specially when he renders his own compositions like "Sa Kanya" and "Ikaw Sana." But this guy can also cast a spell with fast and upbeat numbers like his '70s Pinoy disco medley.

He introduced new singer Tex Ordoñez, who showcased her brilliant voice with their duet, "Hanggang Ngayon" which made Sandra Chavez remark *"Ang linis niyang kumanta,"* adding that the girl will certainly go places.

Lav Diaz wins big in Brussels

Lav Diaz's five-hour film "Batang Westside" reaped top honors last weekend at the Brussels International Film Festival, winning the best picture plum plus best actor trophies for Joel Torre and Yul Servo.

We finally caught the film last week and must say that it's one of the best in recent years and one of the least pretentious films we've seen. What keeps Diaz ahead is his uncanny ability to put on the screen his own vision as a filmmaker. Diaz is finishing his next film, "Ebolusyon."

ALCASID. Exceptional talent.

NU Rock Awards

We are no rock aficionados, but the annual NU Rock Awards always makes it to our priority event list.

The organizers are expecting over 5,000 people to attend the awards show on Nov. 20 at the World Trade Center. The show will be broadcast live over NU 107 radio stations across the country.

Introducing Nicole Anderson

How time flies: former Miss Young Philippines and occasional character actress Jean Saburit already has a daughter who is following her footsteps. Nicole Anderson is now 14 and very pretty.

The Eurasian lass has just been signed up as an image model for BNY Jeans and she looks forward to a career on television before plunging into the movies.

Strangest and most effective local film titles recalled

By Nestor U. Torre

FILM titles are carefully thought up by scriptwriters and producers because they provide viewers with their first inkling of what new movies are about.

CHRISTOPHER de Leon (right) with Leopoldo Salcedo in "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon."

Uninteresting

Of course, some films go by such uninteresting titles as "General Tapia" "Zacarias," "Peksman" or "Ikaw," but most productions try to come up with catchy titles that tickle the interest of potential viewers.

Trouble is, in trying to be different, they sometimes go overboard or miss the mark, and end up as strange, weird or downright funny. Here's our compilation of some of the strangest local movie titles.

'Masakit Ba ang Masugatan?'

"Tonting and His Hidden Wealth." "Masakit Ba ang Masugatan?" "Tuyay and His Magic Payong." "Tatlo Laban sa Bato." "Basaron, Anak ni Kamlon." "Trigger ng mga Kumander." "Kung Tawagin Siya'y Animal." Tatakas Ako, Ubos Kayo." "The Tiny, The Cute and the Sexy."

"Si Ali-Masag." "The Five Style Fist." "Rampador Alindog." "Tsaplin and Three Stodyes." "Rocco, ang Batang Bato." "Saksakan ng Lakas."

"Fighting Warays sa Ilokos." "Dolpinger Meets Oscar Obligacion." "Ang Baril Ko'y 7, Ang Sundang Ko'y 9." "Walastik sa Downtown."

'Mistico Meets Mamaw'

"Dalawa sa Ilalim ng Panganib." "Mr. Burot." "Mistico Meets Mamaw." "Titong Robinhood." "Sandalyas ni Zafira." "Ginto Bawat Sandali." "Capt. Barbel Kontra Capt. Bakal."

"Dalawang Lahi, Isang Dugo." "Genghis Bond." "Dimas Kadena." "Dugo ng Sugatan." "Mabilis—Paa at Kamay." "Keng Leon, Keng Tigre, Ecu Takut, Keka Pa."

"Pasko ng Limang Magdalena." "Mga Saragate." "Tadyak sa Likod." "Maskulado." "Palakang Dagat." "Telebong, Telebong, Telebong." "Ambrose Dugal." "Pamana ng Multo." "Gigi, ang Munting Martir."

"Pangkat Do or Die." "Mission: Terrorize Panay." "Secret Agents Asku Tai Pa." "For Your Height Only." "Mag Toning Muna Tayo." "Si Ako at ang Tres Moskiteros."

'Intrusion Cambodia'

"Sgt. Pork and Cpl. Beans." "Liquidate Sex Gang." "Intrusion Cambodia." "E.T. (Estong Tutong)." "Kristong Walang Krus." "Gabi Kung Sumikat ang Araw." "Ang Paghihiganti ni David Burdado." "Billy the Kid and the Sunshine Gid." "Sampung Ahas ni Eba."

"I Won! I Won! (Ang Swerte nga Naman)." "Kay Dali ng Kahapon, Kay Tagal ng Bukas." "Hello Lover, Goodbye Friend." "Manoy, Hindi Ka na Makakaisa." "Hulihin si Bitoy ng Celeste Gang." "Jandro Nakpil, Halang ang Kaluluwa." "Bakit Manipis ang Ulap?" "I Have Three Eggs."

'Hee-man, Master of None'

"Oka na Oks, Pakner." "Sa Bawat Hakbang, Babaha ng Dugo." "Hee-Man, Master of None." "Kahit sa Bala, Hindi Kami Susuko."

"Horsey, Horsey, Tigidig, Tigidig." "Pangnib sa Bawat Sandaling Ligaya." "Alamat ng Ninja (Kuno)." "Bakit Madalas ang Tibok ng Puso." "God, Save Me!"

—Save us all!

Positive note

On the other hand, some effective or memorable movie titles do hit the spot, so let's end on a positive note and celebrate these and other film titles that do work well:

"Dingding Lang ang Pagitan." "Nagalit ang Buwan sa Haba ng Gabi." "May Lamok sa Loob ng Kulambo." "Nagalit ang Patay sa Haba ng Lamay."

"Hinugot sa Langit." "Isang Kumot, Tatlong Unan." "Bituing Walang Ningning." "Gisingin Natin ang Gabi." "Gusto Kita, Mahal Ko Siya." "Ang Babaing Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang." "Uod at Rosas." Kamakalawa." "Lukso ng Dugo."

'Kakabakaba Ka Ba?'

"Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" "Kakabakaba Ka Ba?" "Dalaga si Misis, Binata si Mister." "Sino'ng Kapiling, Sino'ng Kasiping?" "Bata Pa si Sabel."

"Lumakad Kang Hubad sa Mundong Ibabaw." "Walang Piring ang Katarungan." "Mahal, Saan Ka Natulog Kagabi?" "Sinungaling Mong Puso." "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit." Let's have more such titles—please!

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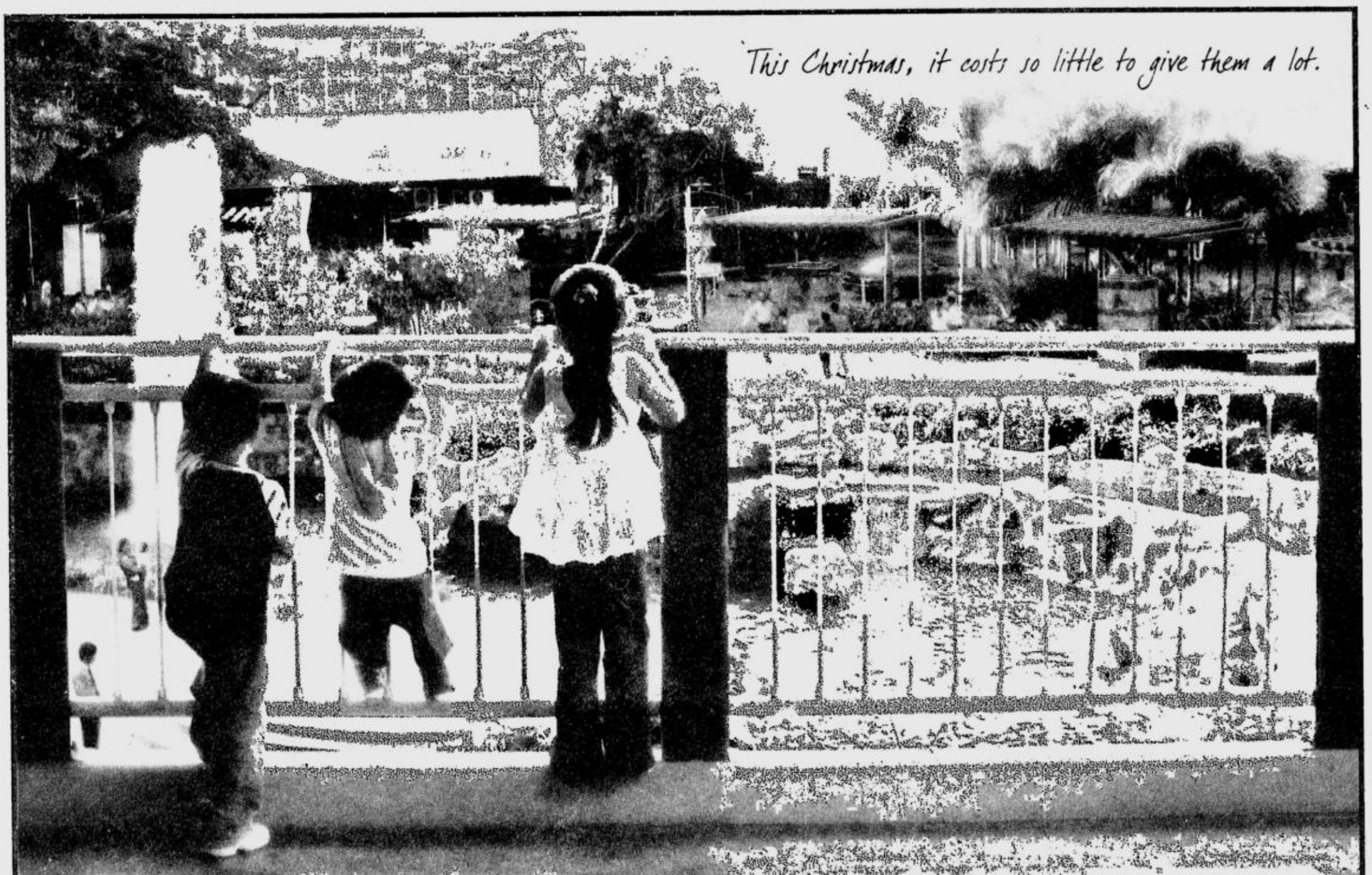

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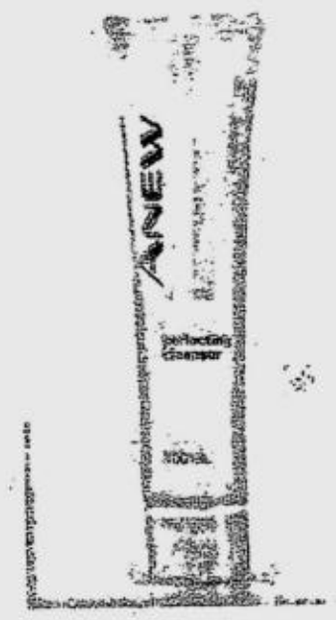

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HEATHER HEADLEY

From Broadway star to recording artist

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK— As a child in Trinidad, Heather Headley remembers grabbing her hairbrush, sneaking into her father's church and singing the R&B songs of her favorite artists—Whitney Houston, Anita Baker and CeCe Winans.

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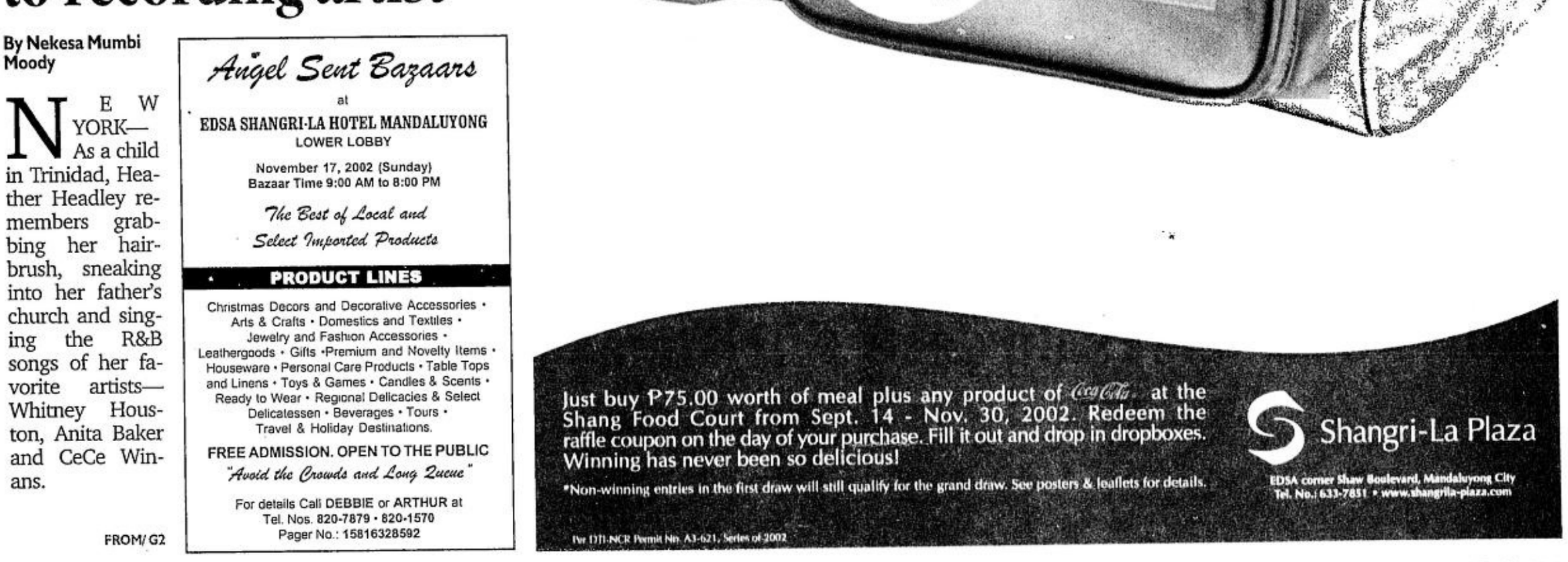

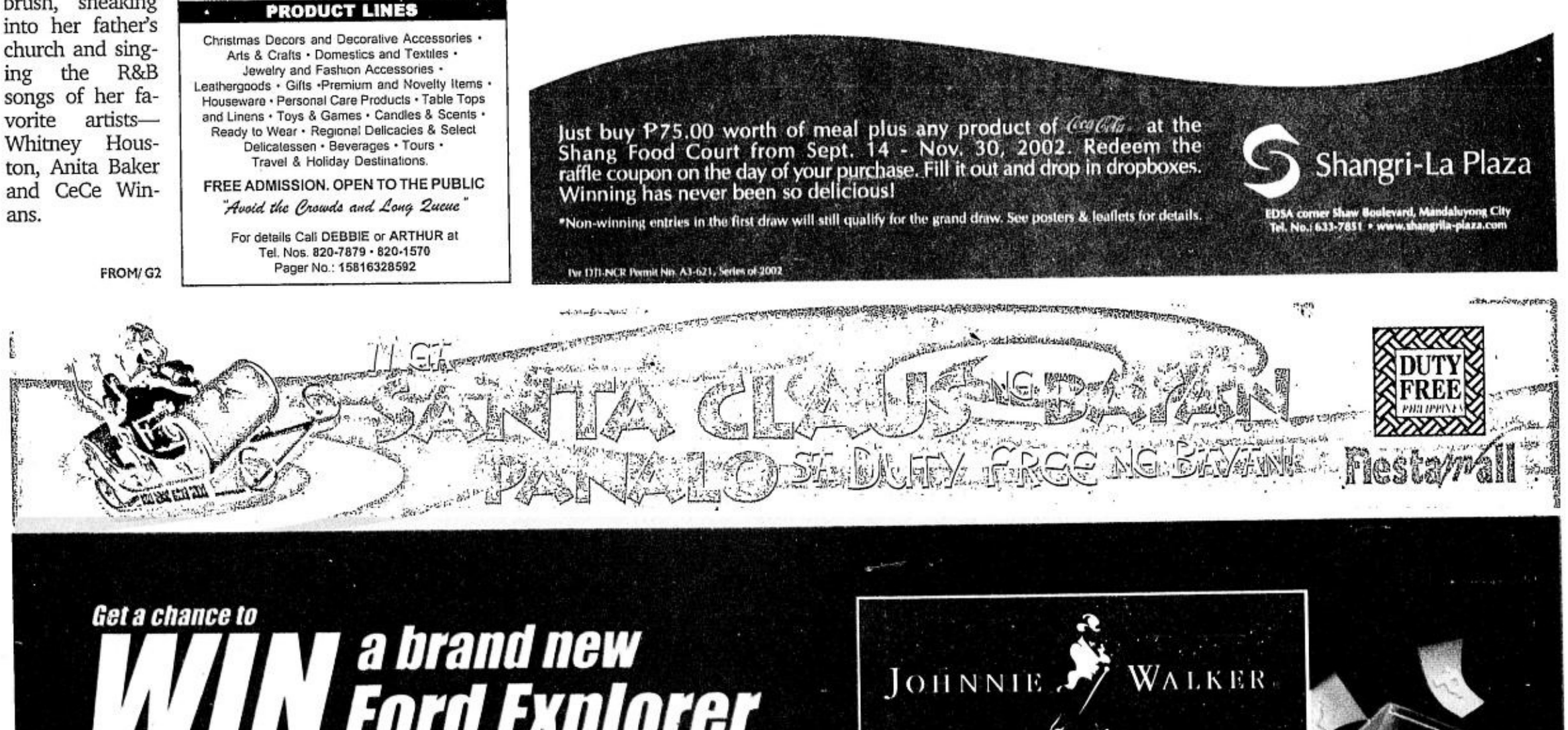

Glittering London premiere for Potter blockbuster

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—The world's most famous boy wizard recently took to the skies again with the glittering world premiere in London of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

Sadness

But the cinematic celebrations were tinged with sadness after the death of flamboyant actor Richard Harris, who played Potter's wily old headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

"He is irreplaceable," producer David Heyman said of the Irish hellraiser who died of cancer at the age of 72.

Robbie Coltrane, who plays the friendly giant Hagrid in the Potter movies, agreed, saying of Harris: "He will be hugely, hugely missed." Coltrane said he had seen Harris just before he died.

"He was in very, very good spirits. He was being very, very rude and then he died," Coltrane told Sky News, reflecting on the actor who was a great believer in living life to the full.

Daniel Radcliffe, the 13-year-old who plays the bespectacled wizard, also paid tribute to Harris. "I know he would love to have been here tonight. He liked to go partying," he said.

Radcliffe was fiercely proud of what the cast had achieved in the second Potter movie. "It is a lot scarier, a lot darker but at the same time it is a lot funnier. There is a good balance," he said.

The first Potter movie "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" grossed $965 million, a total only ever topped by "Titanic," and Warner Brothers have high hopes for the sequel to be released in Britain and the United States.

DANIEL Radcliffe (L) and Emma Watson (R) pose with author J K Rowling at London's Odeon Leicester Square before the world premiere of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." REUTERS

Tickets

Tickets for "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" went on sale in Britain seven weeks before its opening date, sparking Potter fever among his legion of devoted followers. The premiere attracted hundreds of fans, many dressed as the boy wizard.

The Potter books by author JK Rowling have sold almost 180 million copies. She is currently finishing the fifth saga.

The next Potter movie is due to go into production next March. Christopher Columbus, who directed the first two films, is handing over the reins to Mexican director Alfonso Cuaron.

Columbus said: "I have put blood, sweat and tears into these movies. Having a relationship with these kids is one of the great things that has happened to me in my life." But he has been quick to issue a word of warning to the three children who star in the Potter movies—Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.

"For these kids I suggest that they look at the lives of all the child actors who preceded them in terms of where it didn't work out," he said.

He has told the Potter stars not to hesitate if filming turns into a tedious treadmill: "Then walk away. Quit." *Reuters*

Dina Bonnevie is a nervous wreck in her latest starrer

BONNEVIE. Didn't want to play Assunta de Rossi's mother.

By Edmund L. Sicam

DINA Bonnevie has always projected the image of a strong person, one who's in control of her life, and woe to those who mess around with her. Someone once told us that Dina berated a reporter who came unprepared for an interview.

We've never had a problem with her when we attend her presscons. She's a delight to talk to because she's a smart girl. She is not happy with one-sentence answers, unlike some celebs we've interviewed.

Abused wife

In her latest outing, "Bahid," she plays the exact opposite of herself. "I'm an abused wife (of Eddie Garcia), a chainsmoker and alcoholic who is not in control of her life, and a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown," she explains. To begin with, she is a rape victim and it is Eddie who rescues her from her rapist. Eddie, who plays a cold-blooded business tycoon, shoots him in front of Dina and later marries her.

Assunta de Rossi plays Dina's younger sister who gets sexually abused by Eddie. Dina knows this but she is scared of protesting because she's already gotten used to the comfortable life of a rich housewife.

When Mother Lily first offered the role to Dina, the actress didn't accept it. She was going to play Assunta de Rossi's mom and she didn't think it was realistic. Assunta looked too mature to be her daughter. "I am not in a hurry to play a mom," she tells us.

However, she plays a mother for the first time (to Cogie Domingo) in "Anghel sa Lupa." She found that easier to accept.

Eventually, director Joel Lamangan revised the role to that of Assunta's older sister. Plus, the new script offered a meatier character that Dina liked. Dina's only problem was that she was on steroids after undergoing an operation for throat nodules, so she was a bit overweight. When she finally completed her medication, she looked thinner so she had to be covered up for continuity purposes.

Painful memories

Some scenes were difficult to shoot for Dina because they brought back painful memories of her own experience with physical and emotional abuse. "There were times when I would black out because I would see my abuser again and Eddie would calm me down, saying, "Very good, Dina. Relax,"' the actress recalls.

When her character finally comes to her senses towards the end of the movie, she has a confrontation scene with Eddie that requires her to "explode" emotionally.

"It was really hard because it was five in the morning and the camera kept breaking down. The wiring of the steadicam would malfunction and *talagang umiiyak na ako sa inis.* Take five. Feeling *ko pumuputok na ang mga* veins *ko*. When I went home after the shoot, *parang* zombie *ako*, with a major migraine."

Although there are still traces of her traumatic experience, the pain has eased a lot. "Eventually, you have to let go. By waking up to your bible every morning and learning from the past, you know that, in God's hands, you're safe. Life begins to be different. All of a sudden, it's spring again. Flowers begin to bloom."

Another difficult challenge for her was acting drunk while delivering her lines. "I have a technique for acting drunk. I remember this woman who got really drunk and I observed her every move. Whenever I have to be drunk in a movie, *siya ang* model *ko*. For 'Bahid,' though, I had to retake some scenes because Joel kept asking me to say my lines again because h*indi maintindihan. Okay nga yung pagkalasing, hindi naman maintidihan ang* dialogue. I eventually perfected it."

Confrontation

In contrast with her confrontation with Eddie, the one with Assunta was executed quietly. "The pain is there but there are no hysterics. It's like a Pandora's box *na pag nabuksan na,* all the worms come crawling out, all the *sama ng loob*. That scene came out rather well, if I may say so myself."

In other movies like "Tatarin," she starts out as a weak character but gains her strength at the end. Although she agrees that she is a strong person, Dina says, "I'm not ruthless like other people think. I don't have a heart of stone."

In fact, she admits that when it comes to affairs of the heart, she falters—and it's been proven several times in the past.

Hollywood serves up early Christmas for fantasy buffs

By David Germain
(Conclusion)

THE season's other sequels include:

"Die Another Day," pairing Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry in the 20th James Bond adventure; "Star Trek: Nemesis," the franchise's 10th big-screen tale, pitting Enterprise Capt. Picard (Patrick Stewart) against a very personal enemy on a peace mission to the Romulans; "Analyze That," reuniting Robert De Niro, Billy Crystal and director Harold Ramis in a second mob caper as De Niro tries going straight with help from his shrink; and "The Friday After Next," the third installment in Ice Cube and Mike Epps' 'hood comedies, with the guys taking jobs as mall guards after their Christmas presents are boosted.

The crowded holiday period also brings:

Update

Eddie Murphy and Owen Wilson in "I Spy," an update of the 1960s TV show; Disney's animated "Treasure Planet," transplanting the pirate tale "Treasure Island" to outer space; Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks in Steven Spielberg's cat-and-mouse crime tale "Catch Me If You Can;" the cartoon comedy "Adam Sandler's "8 Crazy Nights," with Sandler providing the three lead voices; and Eminem as an aspiring rapper on Detroit's mean streets in director Curtis Hanson's "8 Mile."

There's also "Maid in Manhattan," starring Jennifer Lopez as a hotel chambermaid romanced by a political heir (Ralph Fiennes); George Clooney in "Solaris," director Steven Soderbergh's sci-fi drama about ghostly manifestations on a space station; and Clooney's directing debut, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," with Sam Rockwell in the make-believe CIA memoirs of game-show host Chuck Barris.

Other major releases

Other major releases include Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere in "Chicago," adapted from the stage musical; a live-action "Pinocchio" starring and directed by Roberto Benigni; "The Wild Thornberrys Movie," a big-screen version of the TV cartoon; Rebecca Romijn-Stamos as a hunted crook hiding behind a new identity in Brian De Palma's "Femme Fatale;" the romance "Two Weeks Notice," with Sandra Bullock as a corporate counsel trying to leave her boss (Hugh Grant) behind; and "Max," starring John Cusack as an art dealer in 1918 Munich who befriends aspiring painter Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor).

DI CAPRIO and Hanks co-star in Steven Spielberg's cat-and-mouse crime tale, "Catch Me If You Can."

As always, the end-of-year films offer many Academy Awards hopefuls, including performances by such past Oscar winners as Jack Nicholson, Meryl Streep, Denzel Washington and Michael Caine.

Washington, who won the best-actor Oscar for last year's "Training Day," makes his directing debut and co-stars in "Antwone Fisher," based on the true story of a tormented sailor (Derek Luke) aided by a Navy psychiatrist.

Journalist

Caine plays a journalist in 1950s Vietnam in "The Quiet American," adapted from Graham Greene's novel about murder and a love triangle. Brendan Fraser co-stars.

Nicholson stars in the darkly comic "About Schmidt" as a widower recently retired from a dull insurance job, whose self-examination during a road trip in a motorhome leads him to question the value of his life.

Streep has two films potentially in the Oscar race. In "The Hours," based on the Pulitzer-winning novel that weaves together stories of three women in different times, Streep plays a contemporary book editor opposite Julianne Moore as a '50s mom and Nicole Kidman as author Virginia Woolf.

In "Adaptation," Streep plays a fancifully fictionalized version of Susan Orlean, author of the book "The Orchid Thief." The movie reteams "Being John Malkovich" writer Charlie Kaufman and director Spike Jonze, and stars Nicolas Cage in a bizarre screen personification of Kaufman as he unsuccessfully tries to adapt "The Orchid Thief" into a script.

Complex tale

Streep was surprised that such an odd and complex tale, in which Cage also plays Kaufman's make-believe twin brother, got made in a studio climate that leans toward shallow storytelling.

"It's so layered, and it asks and evokes a lot as you watch it," Streep said. "At one point people were saying, is it too inside the process of writing or filmmaking? But to me, it's just using that landscape as a metaphor for every kind of yearning that human beings have. It's a metaphor for life, and how to be a responsible human being. What it's like to be alive right now. What it's like to adapt to circumstances."

Other films positioned for awards consideration include Martin Scorsese's "Gangs of New York," a 19th century vengeance tale starring DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis and Cameron Diaz; "The 25th Hour" from director Spike Lee, starring Edward Norton as a prison-bound drug dealer on his last day of freedom; and Kevin Kline as a devoted prep-school teacher who has a jarring reunion with old students in "The Emperor's Club." *AP*

From Broadway star to recording artist

From page G1

Transition

Now, the star of "Aida" and "The Lion King" is making the transition from Broadway star to recording artist, and says she realized that the kind of R&B she liked to sing—inspirational ballads, heartfelt love songs—isn't what gets played on the radio.

Instead, she hears bleeped-out curses, sexual references and an emphasis on the material, bling-bling world.

"All of a sudden, you sort of think to yourself, well, maybe this is what I should I do because it's this flood of sexuality and all this stuff," says Headley, 28. "So you have this fight in you all this time."

She chose to stick to the material and image she wanted—which is part of the reason she titled her album, "This is Who I Am."

"I remember telling them in the beginning, there will be no cursing," Headley says in her soft voice which still has traces of a Trinidadian accent. "I'm here to talk about what you can do for me, what I can do for you or our bodies or anything like that."

"I really didn't want the album to be focused on that kind of stuff."

Image

Not that she had to worry too much. After all, Headley, who won a Tony Award for her role in "Aida," gained fame for powerful yet graceful performances in two of Broadway's most family friendly musicals. RCA Records wasn't planning on altering that image.

"She has real strong views on how she sees herself, as a role model in the community, and how she wants to present herself," said Steve Ferrera, senior vice president of A&R at RCA. Ferrera signed Headley and served as executive producer of the disc.

Says Headley: "I remember kind of saying to the record company . . . look, this is me, I've been on Broadway I have had [illegible], it's not [illegible], this is my body, this is how I look, this is how I speak. I don't want to go into this other thing and compromise that for anything else."

Producer James "Jimmy Jam" Harris, who with partner Terry Lewis contributed to the disc, says the singer "stuck to her guns, and I think that she has an album that's very lyrically consistent to who she is as a person."

First message

"For a first-time artist, it's really important to do that," he adds. "You're trying to send that first message out there."

About the biggest change fans will notice is that Headley's signature short, natural hair has grown a bit longer—she had extension twists put in a day before this interview, and the seven-hour process left her head hurting.

But even that change is not as dramatic as it could have been. Instead of flowing locks, she kept her hair bob-length.

"I wanted a look that was more natural," she says, adding that she had still not gotten used to it.

Headley's down-to-earth attitude is shaped partly by her upbringing—her parents were Pentecostal pastors who moved from Trinidad to Indiana when she was 15 (she also has a younger brother). While the stereotype of a preacher's kid is a wild child, Headley says she was pretty obedient—sometimes.

"I was mischievous," she admits with a smile. "Calling people names in church—you know, people are praying, and I'm picking gum out and putting it on little girls' braids. But we weren't awful."

She dreamed of being Whitney Houston, but she also had more practical plans for the future: She planned on becoming a lawyer. Her childhood fantasies of performing started to take shape, however, as she got older and more involved with theater in high school and then at Northwestern University, where she studied musical theater. She left college early to accept a role as an understudy in the musical "Ragtime."

Box-office smash

That would lead to her role on Broadway as Nala in "The Lion King," and later, in "Aida." Although "Aida" made her a star and was a box-office smash, faint critical praise for the show made the experience less fun than it should have been.

"The sad part about it is that I never had a chance to enjoy it. Because at the time, the show didn't get nominated a lot," she says. "A lot of people were tough on it, and I never had the time to kind of go, 'Whoa, I'm enjoying this.' It was almost like I kind of kept it in the background."

Headley didn't even read her reviews, which were glowing. It's a habit she still practices for fear critics will influence her performance.

"I think you try to become what they like," she says. "If the reviewer said, 'I love it when she moved her hands,' all the time on stage you're just like"—and she waves her hands around, laughing.

She's trying not to get too wrapped up in reaction to her latest project, either. The disc's first single, "He Is," has succeeded in getting airplay on adult contemporary and R&B stations.

"It's funny how you pick up these little words, and it destroys your whole life," she says. "Like they tell you, 60 radio stations across America are playing your song, and you're like, 'What about the other one thousand?' You don't hear that these 60 are the R&B stations . . . and the other one thousand are rock . . . and they're not going to play your stuff.

"And you're like, 'Why? Why aren't country stations playing it right now?' It's weird, my brain is a crazy thing," she laughs. *AP*

Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock, Jet Li topbill new Hollywood films

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN Hollywood stars get to the top, they enjoy the kind of fame and fortune that noncelebrities can only dream of. But uneasy lies the head that wears the show biz crown, because it turns out that it's much harder to stay at the top than it is to get there.

REEVE AND LI. Topbill "Matrix Reloaded" and "Cradle 2 the Grave," respectively.

BULLOCK. In "ultimate Valentine movie."

GRANT. Wealthy but irresponsible.

CRYSTAL AND DE NIRO. Star anew in an update on their 1999 hit.

Perks of stardom

So, instead of resting on their laurels and savoring the perks of stardom, big stars have to make sure that their new films will continue to click with the public, otherwise they will take them down with them.

The decline in the careers of Demi Moore, Melanie Griffiths Sylvester Stallone and Michael Keaton are sad reminders of the ephemeral nature of movie stardom, especially when celebrities take their popularity for granted.

That's why, with the "Matrix" sequel, Keanu Reeves is coming on strong again in the futuristic martial arts, high-tech mode that perked up his career several years ago with his first "Matrix" starrer.

His goal is not just to match that achievement, but to top it. In "The Matrix Reloaded" his character, Neo, joins forces with Morpheus (Lawrence Fishburne) and Trinity (Carrie-Ann Moss) to continue battling machines that have enslaved the human race.

Real world

Now, more humans are waking up out of the matrix and attempting to live in the real world. As their numbers increase, the battle moves to Zion, the last city in the real world that has become the center of human resistance.

Meanwhile, Sandra Bullock co-stars with Hugh Grant for the first time in "Two Weeks Notice." Billed as the ultimate Valentine movie, Bullock plays a brilliant but neurotic lawyer, and Grant is her wealthy but irresponsible client.

The romantic comedy appeals to viewers in their 20s and 30s with its story about love on the rebound. Is it ever too late to say 'I love you'? Quite categorically, the film says: Not!

Bullock is only the latest bankable female star whom Hugh Grant is co-starring with. This indicates that he's gotten to the stellar level where he can go on for years, being sequentially teamed up with all of the popular female leads in Hollywood.

Last time, it was with Julia Roberts; now, it's Sandra Bullock. When will it be Ashley Judd, Charlize Theron and Jennifer Lopez's turn?

For his part, popular martial arts star Jet Li reunites with DMX, his formidable action partner in "Romeo Must Die," in "Cradle 2 the Grave." DMX plays a gang leader whose daughter is kidnapped as part of a diamond heist.

Intensive search

This prompts a government agent (Li) to lead the police in an intensive search, aided by—DMX's gangsters! This film format gives Li many opportunities to keep showing off his martial arts expertise, properly showcased with eyecatching production values by megaproducer Joel Silver.

In the field of comedy, Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro do an update on their 1999 hit, "Analyze This." The sequel is titled "Analyze That" (but of course), and this time around, the psychologist played by Crystal is dealing with issues related to his father's death, while his mobster client (De Niro) discovers that his life is being threatened.

All these Warner Bros. releases are scheduled for an early 2003 release.

Vietnamese cuisine in Canada

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada-When I was in L.A., my host Bela Cabardo took me to Saigon Town. There, almost all the shops and restaurants are Vietnamese. Confused about what to savor, I ate everything my tummy could hold for the next few days.

One of the dishes I tried was a take-out order of veggie strips and Vietnamese ham with lemony sweet sauce, plus their Pho or noodle soup and the famous Vietnamese sandwich.

Constant search

Today, I am in constant search for the best and most authentic Vietnamese Pho or noodle soup with the best-tasting broth (the key is in the taste of the stock) and the most crunchy and delicious Vietnamese sandwich.

I first came across the Vietnamese sandwich in the streets of Paris in one of my strolls along the 13th district which is known as Chinatown.

I noticed a long line of Asians as well as Parisians at the entrance of a small Vietnamese stall. I saw very busy ladies dividing the labor of making what looked like a baguette sandwich.

Since then, I have not stopped looking for a better version. I have found some that come close to it.

Fillings range from Vietnamese cold cuts with pickled veggies and *wansoy* and *sili* with the sides of the bread wiped with mayo and liver pate.

Delicious version

In Richmond, British Columbia, there is a Vietnamese restaurant that serves a delicious version of this sandwich.

The restaurant is the New Asia Deli. It offers a few Asian dishes and the Vietnamese Pho. There are Singapore and Malaysian dishes, too. Tthe owners claim Their Vietnamese sandwich is also a bestseller. I can't wait to try it. The sandwiches are outstanding. I love the special and the chicken version.

The sandwiches are stuffed with mayo, pickled *labanos* and carrots, some cold cuts like Vietnam sausage and ham and topped with *sili* and *wansoy*. Slightly or very spicy, it is superb!

Friends

Another restaurant with a name-forgetting sandwich is Au Petit Café. This tip came from friends Carrie Locsin and Rosanne Araneta, both food trippers, too. Since Vietnam was once a French colony, this somehow had an influence on this creative sandwich.

Au Petit Café has a perfect way of preparing the sandwich. Their bread is perfectly crunchy, it has more or less the same filling, but, with some homemade Vietnamese sausage and ham.

The Pho or noodle soup is okay but I've had better. But that's another story.

New Asia Deli is located at Unit4-6390No. 3 road, Brighouse Square (right around Staplesand across New Town) tel. (604) 279 4288

Au Petit Café is at 4851 Main st. in Vancouver. The cross street is 33rd. Tel. no. is (604) 873 3328.

If you have something interesting to share, e-mail me at: sandydaza@shaw.ca.

Happy eating!

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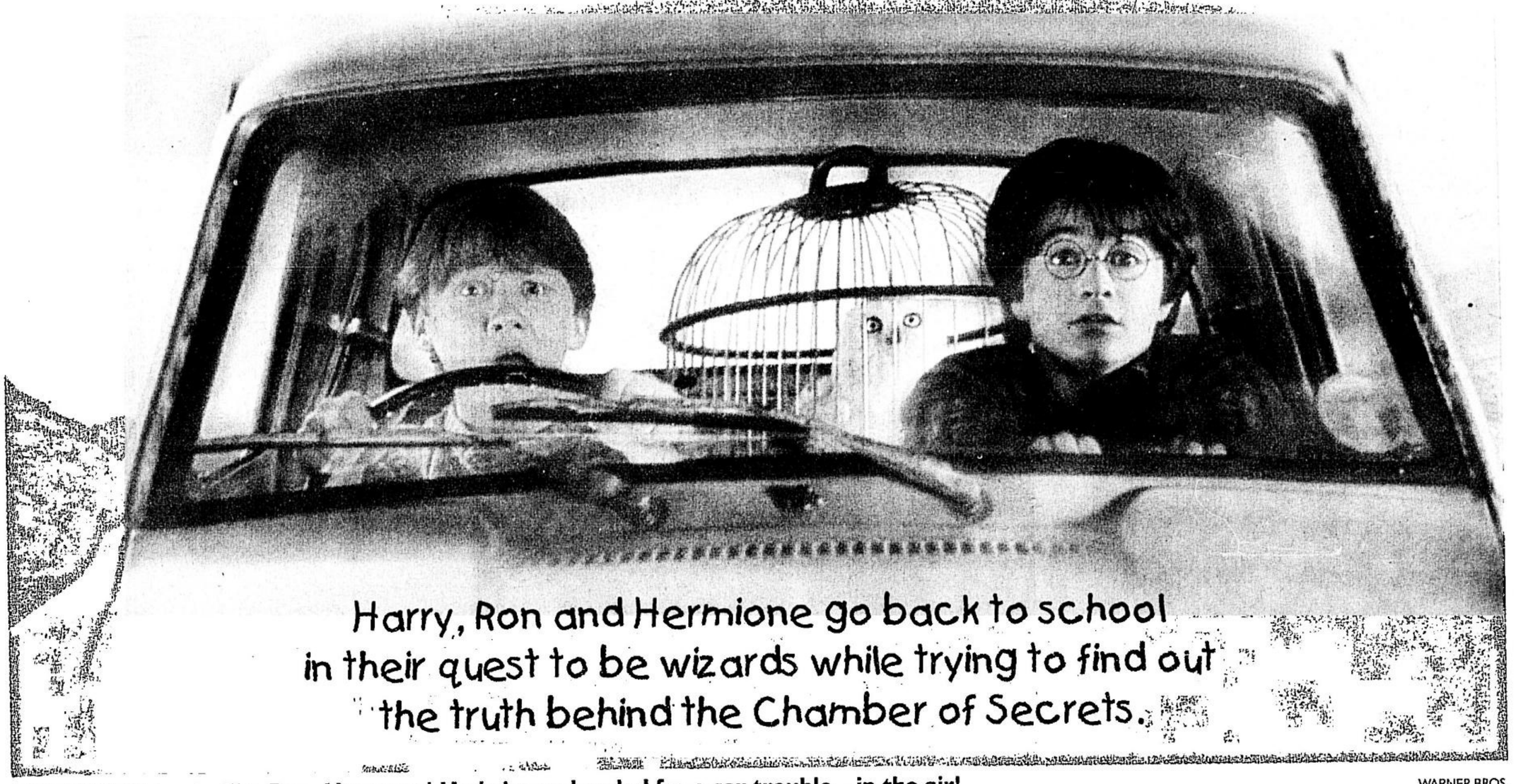
Catching up with Harry Potter and friends



LOOK OUT! Looks like Ron, Harry and Hedwig are headed for a car trouble—in the air! WARNER BROS.

By Ruel S. De Vera

BELIEVE IT or not, it's already been a year since the movie "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" first introduced the bespectacled wizard-to-be to moviegoers all over the world.

Now, let's catch up with the people who make the magic of Harry Potter possible as "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," the second movie based on the J.K. Rowling books, enchants us at the box office.

Join Harry, Ron and Hermione as they come back to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. But a mysterious force seems to be stalking students and Harry holds the key to the mystery of the Chamber of Secrets.

Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter: Now returning to Hogwarts for his second year, the young orphan wizard Harry is discovering more about his immense powers just as he begins to learn about what he's capable of as the hero of "Chamber of Secrets." Harry also plays seeker for Gryffindor's Quidditch team.

Twelve-year-old Dan returns to the Harry Potter movies a virtual superstar, but says "surprisingly little has changed in my life. Some people do come up when they recognize me but all they want to talk about is the movie and

Catching up/ p. 3

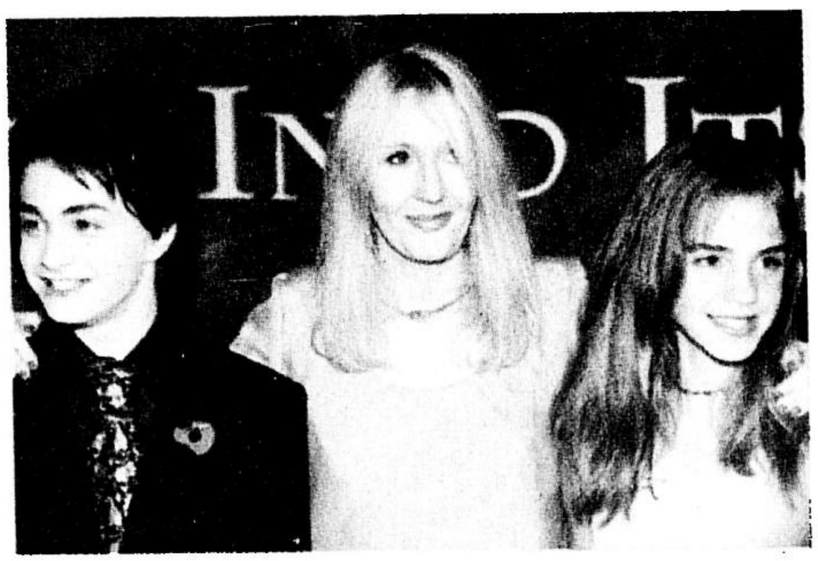
World scope

Sniffing for Foxes

FITZWILLIAM Hunt fox hounds exercise in Milton Park, Cambridgeshire. Fox hunting—one of the most divisive issues in Britain—began a new season on Nov. 1 with supporters warning of serious civil disturbances if the government tries to ban their sport. ***Reuters***

Ocean View

WHALESHARKS swim at the world's second largest 7,500-ton fish tank at the Okinawa Chura Aquarium in Motobu town in Okinawa prefecture, southern Japan. Visitors can observe 650 different species, 65,000 in total marine lives at the aquarium. ***AFP***

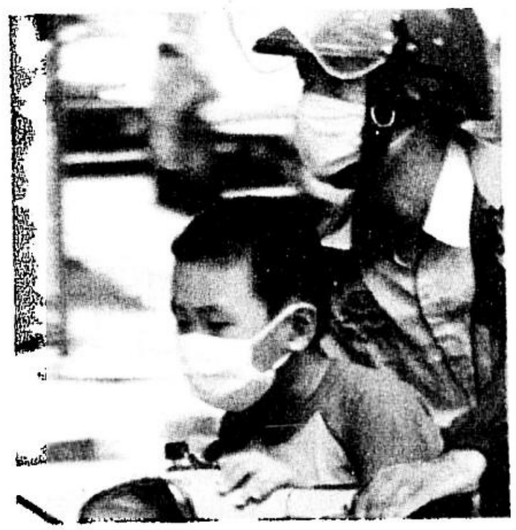


Harry Potter II

BRITISH actors Daniel Radcliffe (L) and Emma Watson (R) pose for photographs with author J.K. Rowling at London's Odeon Leicester Square before the world premiere of "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." Radcliffe and Watson play the roles of Harry Potter and Hermione Granger respectively in the film which was officially released yesterday. ***Reuters***

Safety First

FATHER and son ride a motorcycle along a street of Bangkok. Statistics from the Thai health ministry showed some 80 percent of last year's two million road accidents were motorcyclists without helmets, with some 12,936 dead, an average of one motorcyclist dead and 228 injured every hour. ***AFP***



Catching up... (from page 1)

that's quite cool." Director Chris Columbus says Dan has just moved to a new school and is doing well very as far as his studies are concerned. For his portrayal of Harry, Dan received the Variety Club of Great Britain's Best Newcomer Award and Italy's David Di Donatello Award. Dan enjoyed playing a more heroic Harry, particularly with the stunts such as the one involving the flying car.

"I try to do as many of my stunts as I can," he says. He is a big fan of punk rock, particularly of the British group The Clash. In fact, if he had magical powers, Dan says he would love to be invisible "so I can get into rock concerts." If he had a house elf, he says he would ask the elf "to do my homework for me." Dan says he actually has a lot in common with Harry. "We get into trouble all the time."

Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley: Ron is the youngest of the Weasley brothers. He is the loyal though somewhat easily frightened best friend of Harry.

Rupert is 13 and his role as Ron is the first film role of his life. Since "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," he has appeared as oddball young scientist in the movie "Thunderpants." He remembers vividly the scenes with the giant spider Aragog. "I really don't like spiders," he says. Unlike Ron, Rupert is actually the oldest among his five siblings.

Emma Watson as Hermione Granger: Born to muggle parents, the brainy Hermione is the hardest worker among the three friends in the classroom. Possessed of a perfectionist streak, she reads all her books in advance and has a crush on their new teacher, Gilderoy Lockhart.

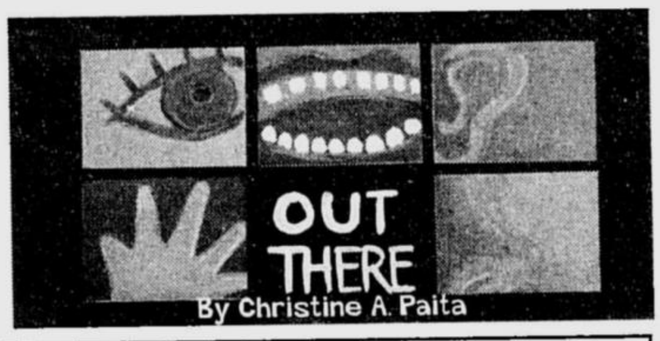
Like Dan and Rupert, Emma says that the success of the first Harry Potter movie really hasn't changed her or her life all that much.

Unlike her workaholic role as Hermione, Emma says she doesn't really like studying as much. Obviously more athletic than Hermione, Emma is on her school's field hockey team. Asked about her love life, Emma is non-committal, just saying "it's easier to arrange other people's love lives than my own." She would love to have an owl, she says, "because it's cheaper than texting" as text messaging is more expensive in the UK than in the Philippines.

Tom Felton as Draco Malfoy: Cruel and haughty, Draco dislikes Harry immensely and is constantly with his henchmen Crabbe and Goyle.

Now 14, Tom is actually a veteran of the screen, having appeared in the movies "The Borrowers" and "Ana and the King." A former commercial model, Tom has a great singing voice and has actually appeared with several choirs. Very athletic, Tom likes to play soccer, basketball and tennis. He also enjoys inline

Catching up/ p. 12



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

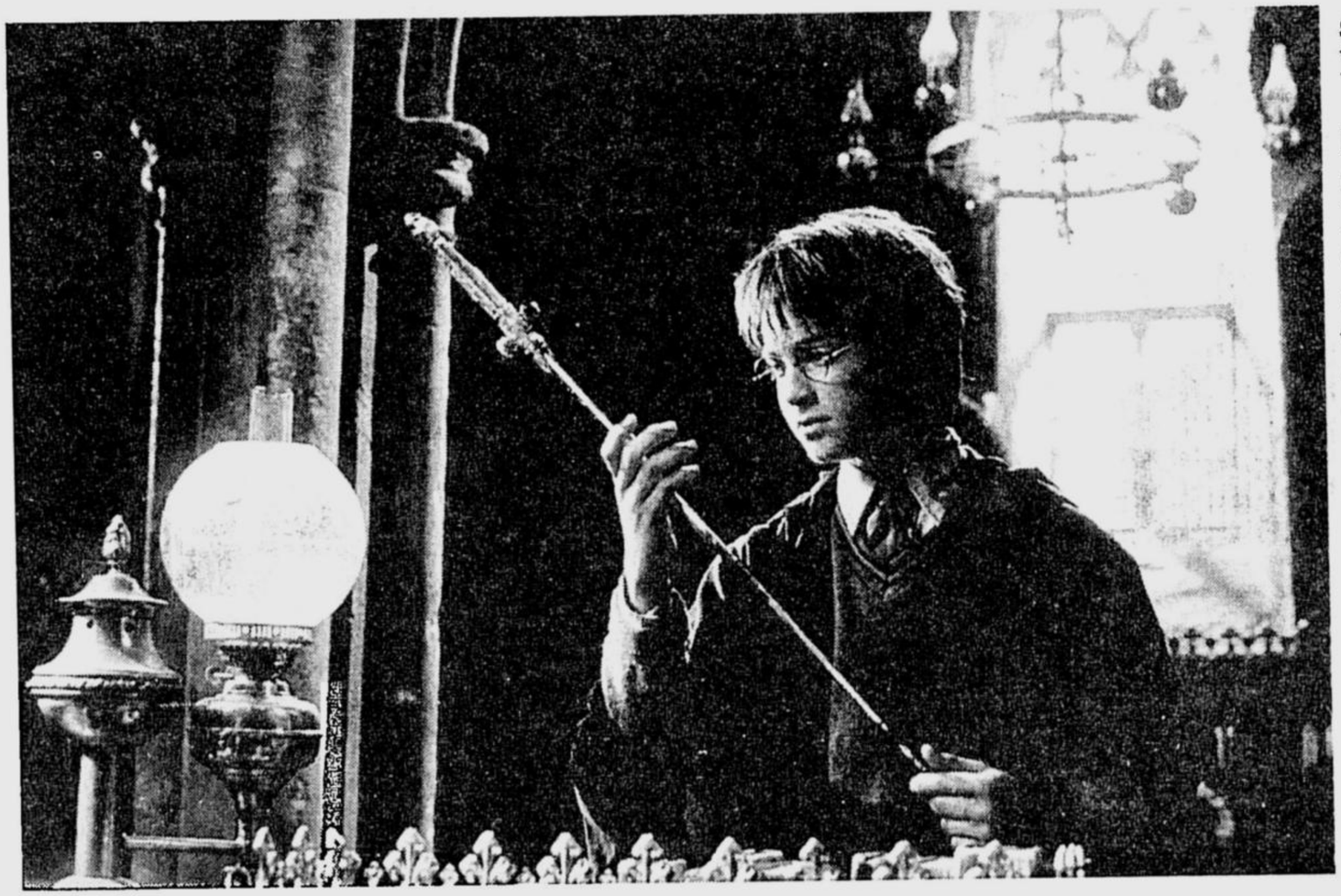
Event

CALLING ALL PET LOVERS! Come to The Outlet Yard on Nov. 16 for a fun-filled day with adorable cats and dogs! Activities include an **Adopt-A-Pet Talk** where concerned "pet parents/children" can adopt cute and lovable dogs and cats from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society. There will also be an art contest wherein children can draw their favorite pets and **win cool prizes**. Plus, shoppers get to meet the popular Doctor Dogs and have their pictures taken with them. The Outlet Yard is along Quezon Avenue, near National Bookstore. For more info, please call 373 3528.

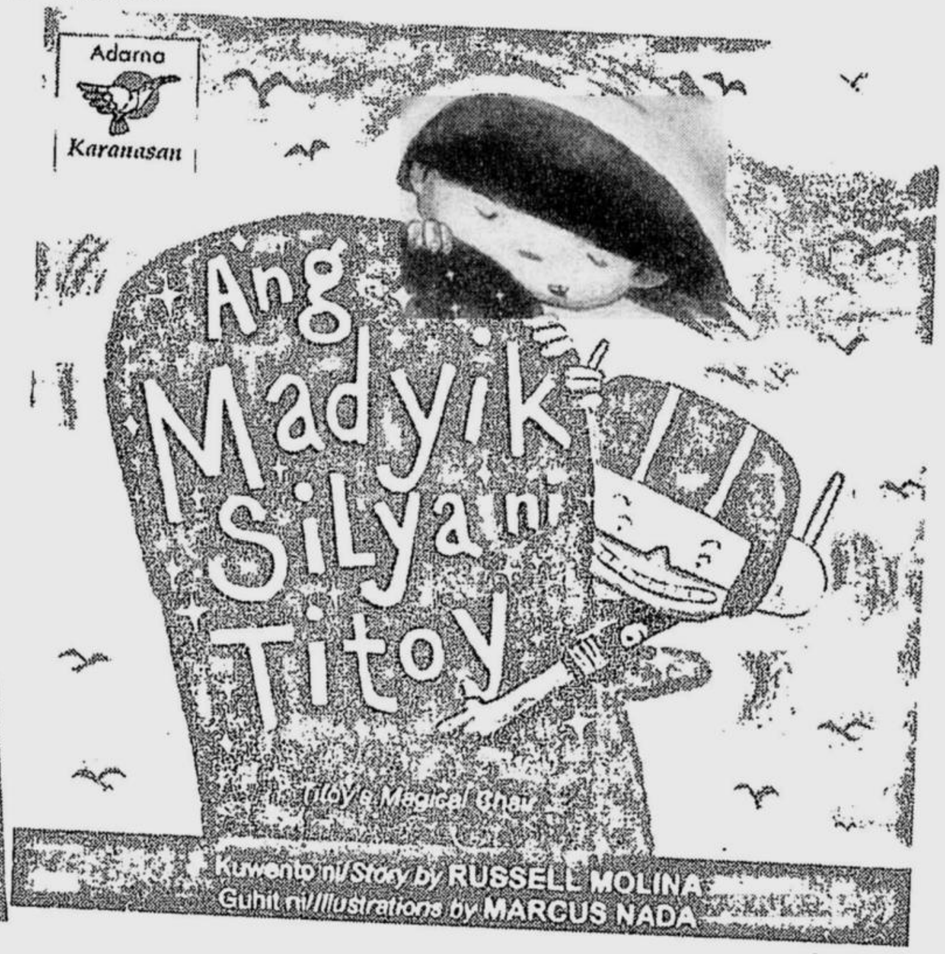
Stuff

NEW MAG. All your favorite anime characters come to life on the pages of **K-Zone**, the newest magazine for kids. It has lots of cool stuff such as fun facts on your fave cartoon characters and the latest in children's shows and movies! Copies are available at magazine shops and bookstores nationwide.

FIFTH W.I.T.C.H. The five magical friends are back! Will, Irma, Taranee, Cornelia, and Hay Lin discover a new and greater threat in their old friend, Elyon. Join the five friends as they **investigate reports of monsters and strange hauntings at the town museum.** Get your copy at magazine stands nationwide.

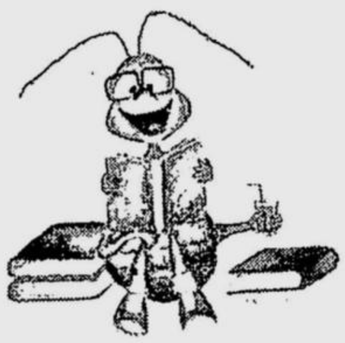


HARRY Potter admires Godric Gryffindor's sword. WARNER BROS.



Magic Streets, Paints and Chairs

HI, kids! It's me again. I discovered so much magic in the recent books I've read. Have you ever seen enchanted creatures when you cross the streets? Or been to the moon aboard a chair? Does your mother keep a bottle of nail polish that can drive away people's problems? In these three books published by Adarna Books, you will experience all of them.



Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

Crossing the street is a really valuable task to learn especially by kids. It can be dangerous when cars and jeepneys are zipping by. It's okay if you have an adult to accompany you. But what if you really have to go on your own?

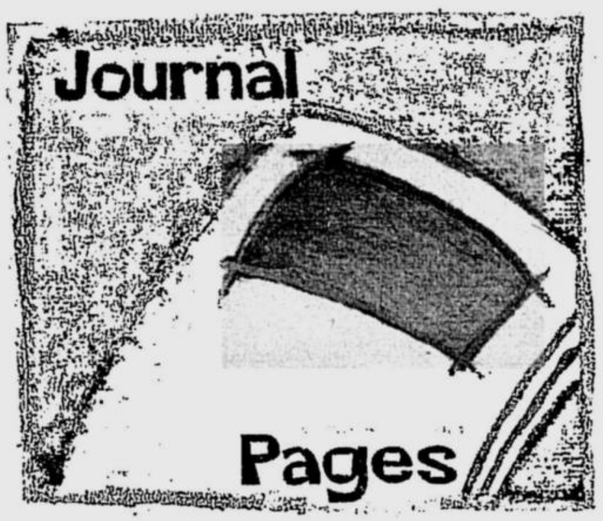
Our hero in "When I Cross The Street" is easily distracted by dwarves, *tikbalangs*, and other creatures he sees when he crosses the street. That's why members of his family need to walk him to school. One day, no one could go with him. Will he remember to look to the left and look to the right?

"When I Cross The Street" is written by Lin Acacio-Flores, who is also the author of a young adult novel, "The Secret." The illustrations are by Moose Maravilla and this is his first book.

Titoy is a special boy. He owns a special chair that turns into anything he wishes like a car, a plane or a train. It doesn't need gas and its tires would never get flat. He and his friend took me to all sorts of places like a kingdom under the sea that was ruled by King Pla-Pla. They took me partying with my cousin crickets and explored caves deep in the woods. They even took me to the moon! Russel Molina, who won this year's PBBY Illustrator's Prize, wrote the story of "Ang Madyik Silya ni Titoy" while Marcus Nada captured Titoy's exciting adventures through his playful illustrations.

In "Ang Makapangyarihang Kyutiks ni Mama" by Rene Villanueva and Ferdinand Guevarra, a little girl believes that her mother can cure all sorts of maladies just like a doctor. She comes to Aling Milagring's, Mrs. Reyes' and Aling Tess' rescue with the help of her bag filled with magical nail polish. Their hands become the color of the rainbow with the flip of her tiny magic brush. Even their worries disappear and they begin to feel better. Wouldn't it be great if you could also make problems disappear using magic nail polish?

All books are available in National Bookstore branches.



My Anime Barkadas

By Ana Melissa Fajardo
St. Paul School
San Rafael, Bulacan

"MAY I borrow your Questor?"

"I have a copy of Culture Crash!"

"Did you watch 'Dragon Ball' last night?"

These are words you'd probably hear often in our *barkada*. We talk about what's new, what's old, what's ugly, what's beautiful, what we like, and all of what's what in the world of anime!

I have two anime barkadas. In the first one, I'm with people my age. We are six in all—Glyrish, Kathleen, Johana, Marielle, Christal and, of course, I—Melissa. We call each other by the names of our favorite cartoon characters. They're all my classmates, so we are always together.

We read magazines about anime just like Questor and Animerica. We also love reading Culture Crash 'cause it has some anime bits.

In my second anime barkada, I am with people a year older than I. But we're all very close. They are Amparo, Hannah, Melvin and Mitchell. We also love reading mags and watching different anime volumes. Mitchell created a comic strip and, of course, his characters are all based on the members of this barkada.

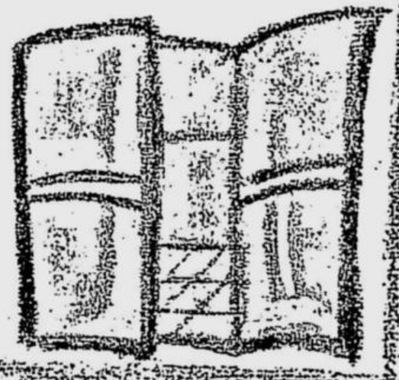
Anime brought us together. But if anime were to vanish, our friendship will still remain.

Sound Familiar?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Way to go, St. Benedict School!

I WAS thrilled when I read the article about the Cavite students who started a petition to get "5 and Up" back on air (JI, Nov. 2, 2002). I'm a "5 and Up" viewer myself and indeed the show was a big loss. I just hope GMA Channel 7 will do something about it. I know that there are many people out there who want the show back. It's a show that gave (and hopefully, will still give) a voice to Pinoy kids. Thanks for helping the kids' voice to be heard.—**BHEL CERTEZA, belolats@yahoo.com**

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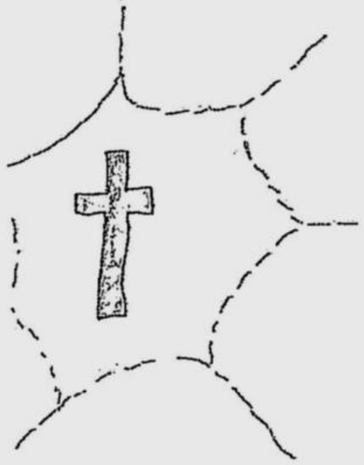
Poems and Illustrations by Krista Uybarreta

Parents

Who are those with us in the night;
Putting out the light?
Who tell us with all their might;
That it's wrong to fight?

Nevertheless, they're the best;
Better and loving than the rest!
Clothing us with shorts and
a lot of vests;



Their kindness really puts
us to the test!

They're my mom and dad;
They take care of my body and head!
They cheer me up when I'm sad;
I'd better be good or they get mad!

I love them a lot;
While they love me right in the spot!

I always follow
their directions to the dot;
I better offend them...not!

I thank God with all my might;
For I can see them with clear sight!
They're both always right;
Now my path's shining with light!

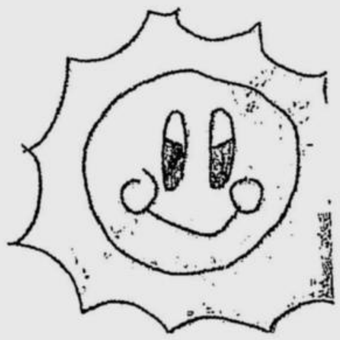
True Friends

Friends become true
When they're there for you!
Through colds and flu
To help is what they do!

They're true friends you see
They wouldn't flee!
That's what they'll be
True to set you free!

They're here 'til the end
They don't just trip or bend!
"I'll be your good friend."
That's the message I send!

Though we're not together everyday
We still find a way!



From a bully, we run or pray
That we can shoo them away!

I will never give up
They too won't stop!
We don't abandon friends, thin or fat
'Cause us, true friends, are like that!

Krista is a Grade 6 student at St. Theresa's College in Quezon City.

Get a chance to win cool prizes in

LICK-a-PRIZE

Selecta paddle pop

Just collect Choco Sticks and Jelly Pops sticks to complete a picture!

Jelly Pops

Nokia 5210

Play Station 2

GameBoy Advance

Casio watch w/ Digicam

E-Scooter

MECHANICS:

1. For every purchase of Selecta Paddle Pop Chocolate and Paddle Pop Jelly Pops get the chance to win prizes. To win, collect specially marked sticks and match them to form the icon of a corresponding prize.
2. Matching Sticks automatically win the indicated prize (Playstation 2 - 4 sticks, Casio Watch w/ Digicam - 3 sticks, E-Scooter - 3 sticks, Nokia 5210 - 3 sticks, Gameboy Advance - 2 sticks, and Paddle Pop Jelly Pops - 1 stick).
3. Winners of free Paddle Pop Jelly Pops can claim the free products by presenting the winning stick of any participating Selecta Wall's outlets nationwide.
4. GMA winners of the major prizes can claim the prize at the Selecta Wall's main office. Provincial winners can claim the prize at the Selecta Wall's depot in their area. Contact Selecta Wall's Trade Marketing Department at 645-5041 local 8469 for more information.
5. To claim major prizes, winners must present the complete and matching sticks forming the icon of the corresponding prize to an authorized Selecta Wall's employee from the main office or depots.
6. Only genuine and original sticks shall be honored for redemption of prizes. All the seeded sticks of major prizes are printed with special marks which will be used by Selecta Wall's for authentication purposes.
7. All prizes are not convertible to cash.
8. Employees of Selecta Wall's Inc., its agencies, the DOH-BFAD, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity are disqualified from the promo.
9. Promo period is from October 28, 2002 to December 31, 2002. Free Paddle Pop Jelly Pops should be claimed within the promo period. Major prizes not claimed after sixty (60) days from the last day of the promo (March 2, 2002) will be forfeited.

Claim your free Jelly Pops in selected stores with Lick-a-Prize banners!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1006 Series of 2002

Tonton Triathlete

A cyclist, swimmer, runner and Grade 3 student all in one

By Eline Santos

Nine-year-old Tonton Dumaguit can outswim, outbike and outrun grown-ups twice his age and size.

Six months ago, he swam the length of 15 football fields, biked 40 kilometers and then ran 10 kilometers to finish fourth in the under-19 category of the Speedo/TLP International Triathlon Challenge in Anilao, Mabini, Batangas.

He took first place in the 19-years-old and below category in the this year's and last year's UPLB National Sprint Triathlon.

"No, I don't find it hard," he says matter-of-factly. "It feels good."

Training Hard

Tonton trains very seriously. When it's a bike training week, he bikes 40 to 50 kilometers a day, leaving the house at 4 a.m. and finishing at 8 a.m. His dad Alex, a swimming coach, follows on a motorcycle from a distance.

Before a competition, Tonton stays away from softdrinks, chocolates and ice cream. "They can make me weak," he explains. Instead he fills up on carbohydrates. He also likes vegetables, ampalaya in particular.

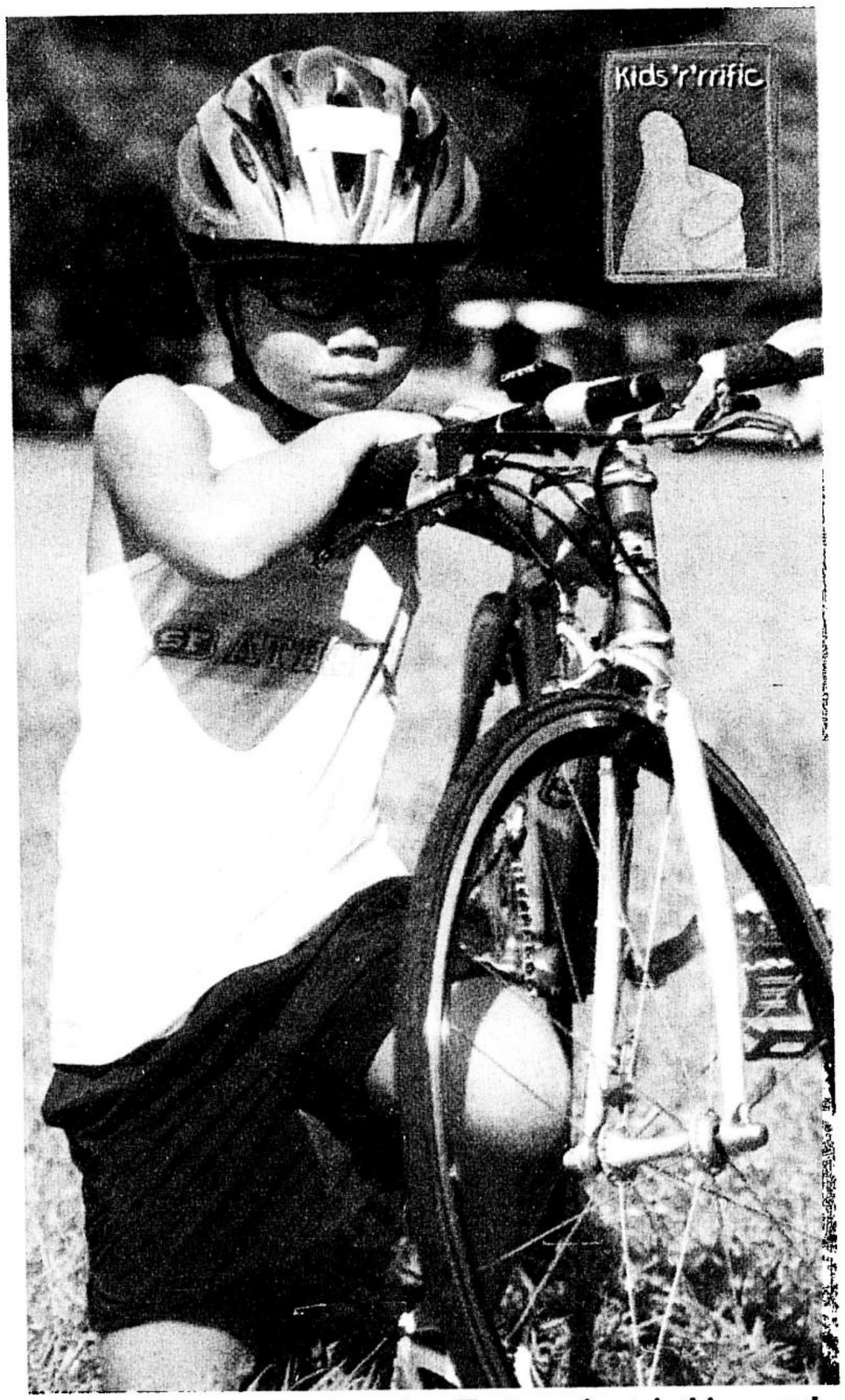
Originally, his dad intended marathons merely as part of Tonton's exercise routine. Then Tonton started bringing home medals. To date, he's got 24 medals, one plaque and three trophies.

Archie Fan

When he's not busy with training or studies at the Lyceo de Los Baños, the third grader takes a break by reading Archie comics.

He also plays with his Kuya Totoy, who has Down's syndrome. His younger sister on the other hand, likes to run with Tonton around the village.

With his family's support, more medals are bound to pave the bike paths, swimming lanes and kilometers of road this young triathlete will take on in the future. Keep it up Tonton!



SETTING his eyes on the prize, Tonton wins triathlons and beats athletes twice his age. EGAY MONTANA

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a

FREE Junior Inquirer & CASIO EMI T-shirt, Plus! a chance to win a Keylighting keyboard!

Kids 'r' rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____
_____
_____
Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

She/he lives at _____
_____
_____

and studies at _____
_____

Her/his contact number is:
_____

Sender's Name: _____
_____

Sender's Age & School: _____
_____

Sender's Address: _____
_____

Sender's Contact No.: _____
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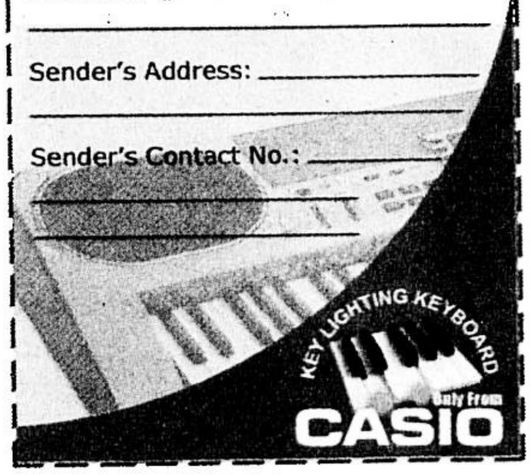


I'M the boy wearing a green jacket and cap on the right side. This was taken on the steps of the Basilica of San Martin de Tours in Taal.

FIELD TRIP CHRONICLES

Experiencing History in Southern Luzon Towns

By Luigi Baroa Manzo
JI Correspondent
Ateneo de Manila Grade School

ALL ABOARD! Count off boys! This was at 5:30 a.m. and the entire Grade 5 population of the Ateneo Grade School was all set.

We've had field trips every year since Prep school. But our organizers promised us this one would be something new, special and different.

This year, the Ateneo hired Lakbay Kalikasan Corporation to help plan the trip. We were given an orientation a week before. Two important points in the orientation were the Zero-Waste rule and the Carry-The-Essentials rule.

They required us to repack our food in recyclable containers and drinks in plastic jugs. No crackers, peanuts and cookies on foiled wrappers, no tetra juices, and no potato chips in canisters. Imagine junk food in tupperwares! This way our destination will bear no signs of any left trash. The second rule taught us that people need not acquire too much in order to survive. Each boy was allowed only a single back pack containing his extra clothes and food.

Grand Basilica

Everyone was excited and energized that early morning when we embarked on our extensive tour of the historical towns of Tagaytay, Taal and Tanauan. On the bus we were given a 2-fold questionnaire, a journal to be accomplished during our visit.

First stop was the World War II Shrine for gallant Filipinos who fought against the Japanese. We all stared at their names. Perhaps some were our great grandfathers or relatives. We offered a moment of prayer for our heroes.

Walking through the town of Taal was very enjoyable. We were able to finish drawing the map of the town in no time. The Basilica of St. Martin was so grand and impressive in its size and architecture. Unfortunately their funds are not enough to complete the restoration.

Visiting the Apacible and Agoncillo mansions situated on the old main road of the Bayang Pueblo provided us a clear picture of the lifestyles of the rich *peninsulares*, *insulares* and *ilustrado* during the Spanish era.

THAT'S ME being blessed with water from the miraculous well of the Caysasay Church.

Mabini's Lessons

We all lined up for miraculous water from the well of the Church of the Virgin Mary of Caysasay to be poured on our heads. Then we toured the must-not-miss *balisong* shops. We all wanted to buy Samurai-looking swords and knives. But of course, we were not allowed.

In Tanauan we visited the ancestral home and museum of Apolinario Mabini. On display among other things were his walking cane, eyeglasses and his collection of medals. Reviewing the life of Mabini, we realized his greatness as a person and as a statesman. Despite his disabilities and misfortune he was a productive nationalist who served our nation well.

After a short tour of the town we played tug-of-war with our facilitators and teachers. We were done for the day.

We were back in Ateneo before 5 p.m., drained and exhausted. But we had a better grasp and understanding of our historical past.

THE NAME'S THE SAME

...BUT in each case, it has two different meanings. The initial letter in each line will help you in identifying the missing word. How many can you name in 3 minutes?

A - the remains of a fire
- the name of a forest tree

B - the wind does it
- boxers exchange them

C - children learn to do this in school
- foreign noble men some times bear this title

D - a social engagement with someone
- the sweet, fleshy fruit of a cultivated palm

E - the name of a first lady
- the night before the big day

F - a shelter for sheep
- something you can do with your arms

G - a sport or amusement
- the wild animals or birds pursued or hunted

H - to put or keep out of sight
- the skin of an animal

I - some are Red
- others have an ocean named after them

J - bony structures of the mouth
- the title of a terrifying sea movie

K - a young goat
- to tease playfully

L - to remain in existence
- having no successor

M - knights used to wear them
- postmen deliver them

Answers:

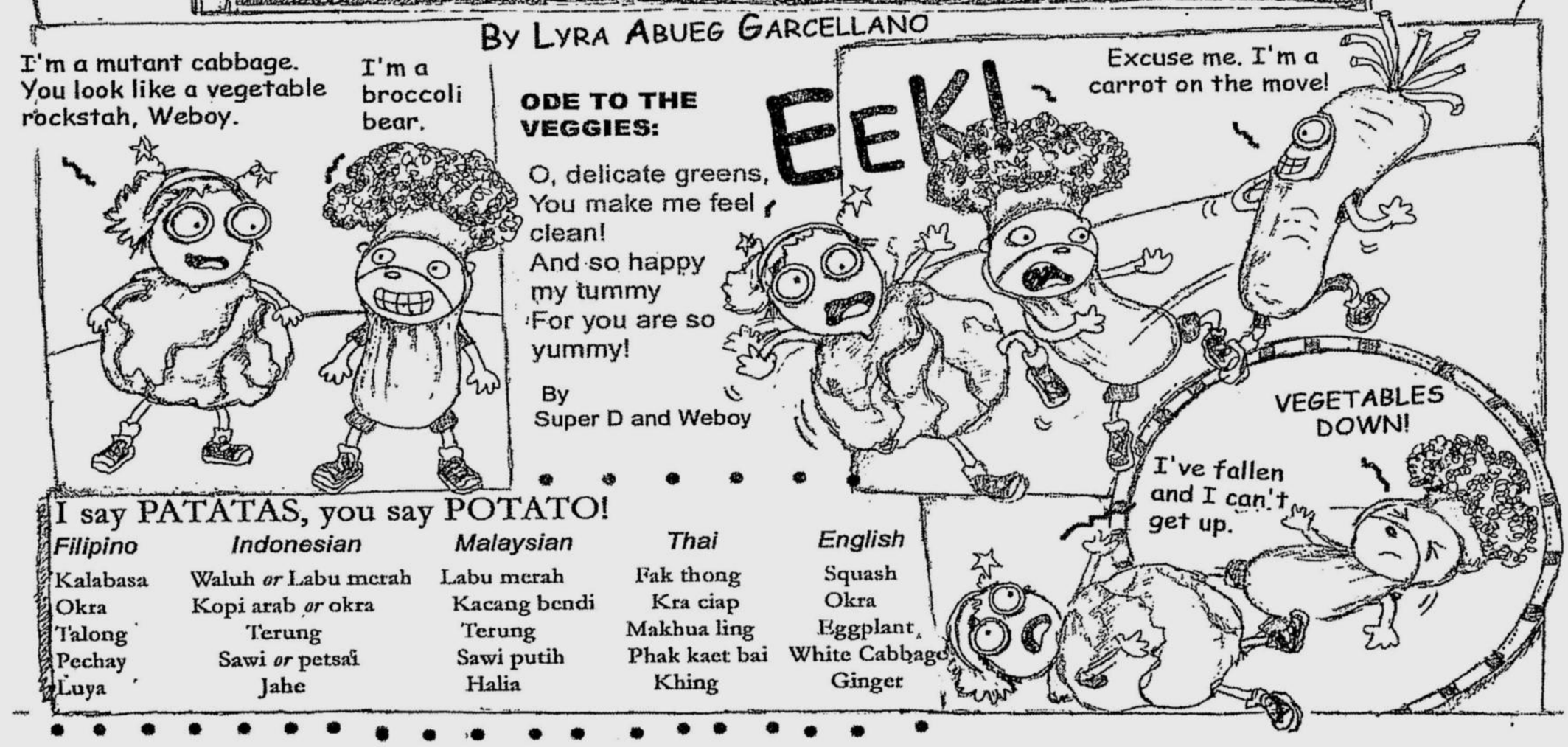
1. Ash
2. Blows
3. Count
4. Date
5. Eye
6. Fold
7. Game
8. Hide
9. Indians
10. Jaws
11. Kid
12. Last
13. Mail

Ratings:

superbrain! 12-13

excellent! 9-11

good! 6-8



I say PATATAS, you say POTATO!

Filipino	*Indonesian*	*Malaysian*	*Thai*	*English*
Kalabasa	Waluh *or* Labu merah	Labu merah	Fak thong	Squash
Okra	Kopi arab *or* okra	Kacang bendi	Kra ciap	Okra
Talong	Terung	Terung	Makhua ling	Eggplant
Pechay	Sawi *or* petsai	Sawi putih	Phak kaet bai	White Cabbage
Luya	Jahe	Halia	Khing	Ginger

Last Episode: A Battle-weary Elasti-Worm manages to find Little John. Before fainitng, he tells LJ of the dire fate that has befallen their team. As the young cat rushes to the rescue, his sisters discover that the weary Elasti-Worm is actually a robot sent to lure LJ into a trap...

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BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

Catching up... (from page 3)

skating and ice skating.

Hedwig and Erroll: Hedwig is Harry's loyal owl while Erroll is Ron's aged, barely flight-worthy owl.

All the owls used in "The Chamber of Secrets" were the same owls used in the first movie. They were trained especially for the role. Four owls actually played the part of Hedwig. The four Snowy Owls, all three years old and male, are named Elmo, Gizmo, Sprout and Wotan. While some owls were good at flying, others were good at picking up things and just sitting there. Two Great Grey Owls named Alex and Caesar alternated as Erroll. Unlike their reputation for being "wise," owls are actually very forgetful and have to be retrained every day.

By the way, younger kids or those really afraid of spiders should ask their parents first before going to see this movie as it's a little scary. Rediscover the magic as "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" is playing in cinemas right now.

HERMIONE with Quidditch rival teams Slytherin and Gryffindor. WARNER BROS.

Asian bloc backs RP for seat in UN Security Council

Story Below, Col. 2

IN *Sunday Lifestyle*
- Wedding of the Year—in 2004 /D1
- Slick night of tittle-tattle /E1

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible]VIEWS
November 17, 2002 ★ 82 pages / 7 sections / vol. 17 / no. 342 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Deportees' wish: Home for Christmas

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Christmas is a time for family reunion, but it will be a poignant one for Filipinos set for deportation to their motherland after being rounded up for overstaying and other offenses.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario told the INQUIR-

DEPORTEES/ A19

₱33 a month for 8 years

₱28-B refund means P3,400 lump sum per household

By Volt Contreras and Ronnel W. Domingo

EACH household serviced by the Manila Electric Co. can expect a refund averaging P33 a month for eight years, or a total of around P3,500. That is, if the country's biggest power distributor starts complying with the Supreme Court order for it to pay back P28 billion in excess charges imposed since February 1994.

This is according to a computation made by Agham, a group of scientists that yesterday lauded the landmark ruling and is now fighting Meralco's controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA) and its new bid for a rate increase.

But Johnny Tapang, national chair of Agham (or Samahan ng mga Tagapagtaguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan), reminded consumers that because Meralco intended to appeal the ruling, "it will be some time before we get our money back."

Tapang, a physics professor at the University of the Philippines, said in an interview that Agham arrived at the monthly rebate of P33.4 owed each household based on the following computation and assumptions:

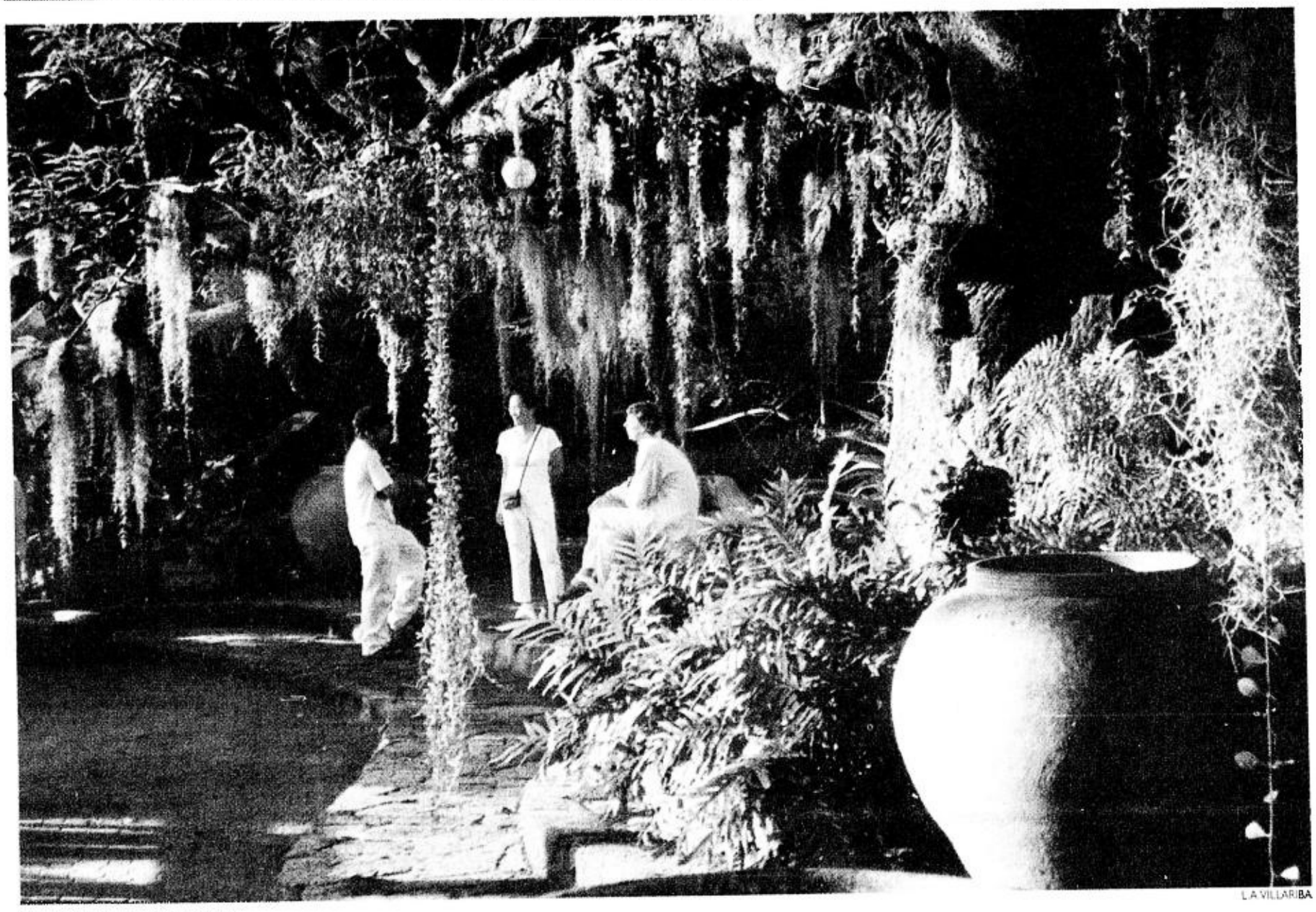
Since the ruling put Meralco's overcharge at P0.167 per kilowatt-hour, Agham multiplied 16.7 centavos by 200 kWh, "which we assumed to be an average household's monthly power consumption," said Tapang.

The monthly reimbursement of P33.4, if multiplied by the number of months—104—from February 1994 to the present, will mean that Meralco owes each household a total of P3,473.6 for the entire period of the overcharge, he said, adding:

"The amount may seem small considering today's cost of living. But P33 can already buy an *ulam* (viand) for a meal. That's the value of what Meralco has taken away, especially from poor families."

In a separate statement, Agham said: "The more important thing to remember is that if we are vigilant and united we

MERALCO/ A19



L.A. VILLARIBA

WELLNESS PILGRIMS
Under a century-old mango tree on The Farm in San Benito, Lipa, Batangas, a sanctuary of serenity, where away from the madding crowd in a toxic-terror stricken world, seekers rediscover themselves, nature's healing gifts and reclaim their soul and well-being. *(Story in Lifestyle, page E4)*

Filipino as a superbeing: Filipinizing the world

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

(The author is one of the country's leading literary figures, also one of its most-awarded. She pioneered in publishing and writing coffeetable books which always celebrate the importance of being Filipino.)

I RECENTLY read a column of Teodoro Benigno called "Why We're Losers" and I want to tell you that reading such a piece is like being told, while falling into a lake, that there's a Loch Ness monster right under you. I was depressed for days. But I recalled an earlier column Conrad de Quiros wrote, entitled also "Losers." It was a wonderful address to a graduating class, on the same subject—current affairs, but really about the idealism of the young.

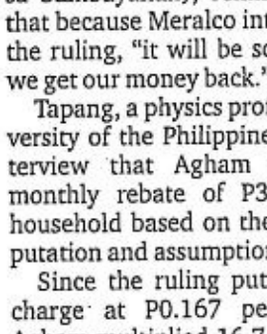
COMMENTARY

Mainly, I want to thank Conrad and also Michael Tan for always being positive and upbeat about the Filipino because that's very hard to come by these days. Many readers, I'm sure, share their vision, although our beats may all be different, mine is art and culture. But I see in the multi-facetted Filipino, as Conrad and Michael do, the creativity and talent to make it big in the world.

I also wish to share something so esoteric that I may be laughed at, but deep down inside, I think, you will see its truth.

Whenever the affairs of the country depress me, I call on my astrologer friend, Georgina Solina. So I told her about the Benigno column. It was such a well-written, true-to-fact column, I said, that one couldn't quarrel with it. But it

FILIPINO/ A19



YUCHENGCO: One-on-one drive pays off.

Asian bloc backs RP for Security Council seat

THE PHILIPPINES has been endorsed by the 52-member Asian group as its candidate for a seat in the United Nations Security Council for 2004 to 2005, the Philippine mission to the UN reported.

The endorsement was made during a recent meeting at the UN headquarters in New York.

In effect, it makes the Philippines the Asian bloc's candidate for the non-permanent council slot reserved for Asia. The Security Council consists of five permanent and 10 non-permanent members, five of which are elected each year for a term of two years.

The United States, United Kingdom, China, France and the Russian Federation are the five permanent members.

The Philippines was last elected to the UN Security Council 21 years ago with then Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo as the country's representative.

The Philippine candidate for the non-permanent seat will be a major policy decision of the government. The election is set for November 2003 in New York.

The Asian bloc's endorsement comes on the heels of a sustained campaign by Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, Philippine permanent representative to the United Nations, to secure a seat for the country.

Yuchengco said the Philippines "remains committed to keeping the UN an effective organization, responsive to the needs of the world community, a true instrument of peace in the ever-changing dynamics of international politics."

He assured the Asian bloc that "the Philippines believes in the vision of the United Nations as a forum where every sovereign member can have a voice."

If elected, the Philippine delegation "will take the concerns of the Asian members to

ASIAN/ A7

Miss America in trouble for chastity stand

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—There's nothing like a controversy over sex to get them worked up at the headquarters of the Miss America Pageant. The latest furor, though, has to do with NOT having sex.

Miss America Erika Harold is insisting on promoting abstinence during her yearlong reign, to the chagrin of the pageant. Conservatives have rallied to her cause and accused the pageant of hypocrisy, giving the Miss America organization the kind of clobbering it usually gets from the left.

"In an age where beauty queens are regularly disqualified for inappropriate behavior, who would

MISS/ A7

Cabinet members offer to resign en masse

Camacho courtesy resignation gives investors the jitters

By Clarissa S. Batino and Armand Nocum

A LETTER from the Cabinet men offering to resign "en masse" is now being drafted by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, according to Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

The two officials had discussed the letter and agreed to pass it around for Cabinet members to sign on Monday for presentation to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

For sure, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho won't be one of the signatories.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo had laughed out loud when Camacho handed him his resignation last Wednesday.

President Macapagal threw it in the wastebasket. Which was the sensible thing to do with a Camacho courtesy resignation letter. Because when Camacho admitted last Friday that he had indeed submitted such a letter, foreign investors and the Macapagal administration were not laughing.

It would have cost the government, according to its own estimate, $30 million in its ongoing fund-raising as investors felt they needed a higher return for what they perceived was a greater risk if the finance chief would leave his post. Camacho's letter nearly jeopardized a $500-million government borrowing.

Thus, Malacañang was forced to issue an announcement late Friday night, in time for the opening of the New York financial market, that President Macapagal had immediately rejected Camacho's resignation.

Camacho himself had to call investors in New York and London late Friday night, Manila time, to clarify that his resignation was not accepted. Otherwise, the foreign borrowing would have been put back on the shelf to gather dust and cobwebs.

"In fact, the President threw Camacho's letter in the waste basket as soon as she received it," said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Tiglao said Camacho was as righteous as a priest. "When he heard all these rumors (about a Cabinet revamp), he felt he needed to resign. *Parang pari yan e,*" said Tiglao.

Tiglao admitted that Camacho's resignation had a negative impact on the ongoing foreign bond issue to raise as much as $500 million from the sale of

CABINET/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/11/17/02

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Ailing Cayetano dream to take over Senate dims

By Cynthia D. Balana

AILING Sen. Renato Cayetano has to muster 12 more votes by next January if he is to take over as Senate President from Sen. Franklin Drilon, despite a "gentleman's agreement" between the two to share a three-year term.

Drilon's one-and-a-half-year term ends next month but it is by no means certain that Cayetano would be taking over from him, a senator privy to the Drilon-Cayetano deal said yesterday.

Aside from his poor health, Cayetano, who is said to be suffering from a viral liver infection, has to make sure he has the votes of the 12 other senators in the administration coalition, the senator source said.

This is because of a Senate rule that a Senate President must be elected by majority vote, or 13 senators in the present Senate.

Drilon said he promised his vote to Cayetano at the end of the half-term but said he could not commit the votes of the other majority senators.

He said what he had with Cayetano was a mere personal agreement so there was no need to present it to the Senate floor for approval.

"If he (Cayetano) fails to muster 13 votes, then I'll stay as Senate President. To oust me, you have to have 13 votes because I am the incumbent. But he has my vote," Drilon said.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said, however, that the Drilon-Cayetano agreement should be presented to the floor for voting.

He said any member of the majority can present a resolution signed by 13 senators, including Cayetano, for the leadership takeover to take effect.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda said that senators from the majority coalition who also signed the "gentleman's agreement" were duty-bound to support it.

DRILON on Cayetano's quest to lead the Senate: "If he fails to muster 13 votes, then I'll stay as Senate President. To oust me, you have to have 13 votes because I am the incumbent. But he has my vote."

Sen. Joker Arroyo did not sign the agreement as he considered it an illegal arrangement but he said he would accede to the wish of the majority.

"If Cayetano gets 13 votes, then he will be the Senate President," Legarda said.

Asked if senators who signed the agreement might be inclined to change their vote, Drilon quipped: "I don't know. The only certain thing in this world are death and taxes."

"But he (Cayetano) has to look to other than my vote and his vote. What he has is my assurance of my vote for him. But I cannot commit the other senators," Drilon said.

Cayetano's possible assumption of the Senate helm apparently does not sit well with some opposition members.

There were also reports that Legarda and Sen. Manny Villar were interested in the post although the two have denied this, saying they were bound by the Drilon-Cayetano deal.

GMA tells off critics: Show proof, or just shut up

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told off critics of her administration, saying they should just shut up if they cannot show proof of wrongdoing among her officials.

While she said she welcomed receiving reports of irregularities in government, the President said the accusers must have "strong evidence" to support their allegations.

Ms Macapagal's statement in her weekly radio message yesterday came in the wake of Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama's exposé last week regarding a Cabinet official who allegedly took a $2 million kickback from a foreign company involved in a major infrastructure project. The money was allegedly deposited in a Hong Kong account.

But after several days of speculation that the official being referred to was Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Villarama declined to name the so-called "two-million dollar man."

Ms Macapagal did not mention the incident in her message.

"You may monitor the implementation of government projects to make sure there are no irregularities or anomalies. You may report officials who enrich themselves and live beyond their means, as I have ordered a lifestyle check on top officials of my administration," she said.

PRESIDENT welcomes reports of irregularities but...

But she said critics must have strong evidence to support their allegations "so this will not turn out to be a plain case of a smear campaign."

On Friday, Ms Macapagal assured a meeting of foreign business chambers operating in the Philippines that her government was fighting hard to stamp out corruption and that there were no "sacred cows" in her government.

She said she had her own husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, face investigation after he was accused of graft several times, but the charges were never proven. *Dona Pazzibugan*

New 'Harry Potter' movie worries Catholic bishops

CATHOLIC bishops yesterday cautioned parents about violent scenes depicted in the new Harry Potter movie.

"The movie contains some dark and scary scenes, over-sized fantastic creatures and the desperate, heightened fight to the finish at the end," said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in its review.

While Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets is overall "morally acceptable and technically above average" parents should carefully decide whether very young children should be allowed to watch it, the bishops said.

The movie, the second in the Harry Potter series, is lifted from the books of J.K. Rowling on the adventures of boy wizard Harry and his friends, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, at the Hogwarts school of wizardry.

The CBCP's review body, the Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation (Cinema), said that although the movie was rated for all ages, this time "the tale has become too much of a fantasy for some viewers' liking."

Cinema was being consistent with its review of the first Potter movie, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

Back then, Cinema warned that the muggle (non-wizard) children and fans of the character might fail to differentiate the real from the unreal and "dabble in witchcraft" and "seek sources of 'black magic."

But on a positive note, Cinema noted that the cast has improved its acting performance and the new movie "is a real spectacle of entertaining sights and sound." *Armand N. Nocum, AFP*

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Gov't-MILF talks to resume next month

ZAMBOANGA CITY —Peace talks with the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front are expected to resume next month in Malaysia, a rebel spokesperson said Saturday, as sporadic clashes persisted.

"We are optimistic about the peace talks next month. We hope to sign an agreement with the Philippines that would further the cause of peace in the south," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

The government was not immediately available for comment on whether the talks would go ahead.

Malaysia last year brokered a ceasefire between Manila and the MILF that paved the way for peace talks aimed at reaching a political settlement to the group's 29-year separatist rebellion in Mindanao.

The talks, however, hit a snag when the MILF insisted it be allowed to oversee rehabilitation and development of former rebel areas overrun by the military.

"That was a contentious issue then and the government has already agreed that the MILF would implement the rehabilitation and development program in affected areas," Kabalu said.

Despite the peace talks however sporadic clashes have continued. *AFP*

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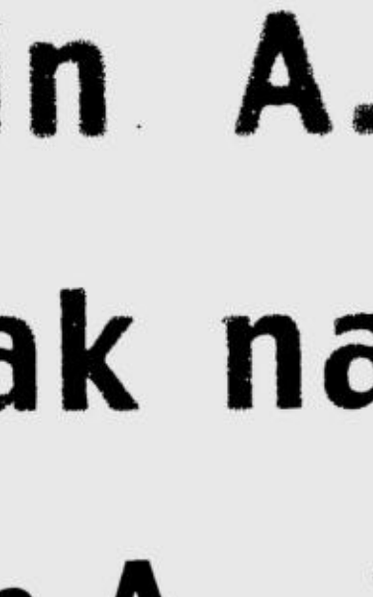

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President moves to appease troops

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE LATEST coup talks apparently still fresh in her mind, President Macapagal-Arroyo may have wanted to be personally assured by her soldiers that they were not part of such plots.

She met with about 30 sergeant majors from the three Armed Forces units over lunch in Malacañang yesterday during which the President assured the country's soldiers that they would be getting their salary increase mandated by Republic Act 9166, which she signed on June 7.

Earlier Ms Macapagal acknowledged reports that soldiers have been grumbling about their delayed salary increases, which may have sparked coup talks in the past three weeks.

During a joint command conference in Malacañang on Nov. 10, the President explained that the salary increase would be given on a staggered basis over a period of 18 months.

RA 9166 raised the base pay rate of Armed Forces officials and enlisted men to the same level as that enjoyed by their counterparts in the Philippine National Police.

AFP chief Gen. Benjamin Defensor and the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force also attended the meeting yesterday.

According to Army Sgt. Major Herberto Inocencio, the President guaranteed that the soldiers would get their full salary increase eventually and that they had accepted that this would be given on a staggered basis.

He said the President did not ask them about the reported recruitment going on for them to join anti-government plots. She did not have to ask them not to join, he said.

"We are loyal to the President, of course," Inocencio said.

He said the reported coup recruitment did not mean anything at their level.

"We know how the soldiers feel. We are the bridge. We are the link (of the commanders to the soldiers)," he added.

Earlier yesterday, the President attended the first national convention in Los Baños, Laguna, of the newly organized Guardians Philippines Anti-Crime Organization Inc.

The organization is reportedly a splinter group of the Guardians Brotherhood fraternity of active and retired military officers and civilians.

Ms Macapagal asked the new Guardians group to serve as an elite civilian anti-crime organization. She said the PNP would give them special counter-terrorism training.

She asked retired PNP Director Nestorio Gualberto, former head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and a member of the new Guardians group, to draw up plans for the training program.

She said the group would be particularly helpful in gathering intelligence and reporting suspicious people to authorities.

"You can be a special group among our other citizens. Training should make your members a cut above the rest of the involved citizenry. You have proven your discipline. So with a little technical training regarding these aspects of terrorism, you can do it," she said.

In this way, the Guardians would have a new relevance apart from their original objective of pushing for reform in the military, the President said.

Bali bomber believed to be behind attack on RP ambassador's home

By TJ Burgonio

THE PRIME suspect in the Oct. 12 bomb blast in Bali, Indonesia, had a hand in the attack on the Jakarta residence of Philippine Ambassador Leonides Caday in August 2000, according to an intelligence report.

Quoting Indonesian police, the report said Amrozi confessed he participated in a series of bombings in Jakarta two years ago, including the blast at Caday's residence, and revealed that Hambali, al-Qaida's alleged point man in Southeast Asia, led the attack on the envoy's home.

At past noon on Aug. 1, 2000, a bomb exploded as the Mercedez- Benz car bearing Caday turned into the driveway of his residence in the prestigious Menteng District. The ambassador sustained serious injuries and had to stay in the hospital for months. He has since been replaced by Ambassador Rafael Seguis.

Amrozi was arrested in his home in East Java on Nov. 6 in connection with the Bali explosion that killed nearly 200 people, mostly tourists. He admitted helping assemble the car bomb used in the attack.

Indonesian authorities had blamed the incident on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network and its ally, the Jemaah Islamiah, a militant group based in Southeast Asia.

Earlier, in an e-mail sent to the Reuters news agency's Jakarta office, the report said, a group calling itself Mujahidin Divisi Khandaq claimed responsibility for the attack on Caday's residence.

But, the report added, Faiz Abu Bakar Bafana, one of the 13 alleged JI members rounded up in Singapore last December on suspicion of terrorism, claimed Hambali told him that Indonesian Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi took part in the attack.

Al Ghozi—a self-confessed JI member who was nabbed in Manila in January, charged with illegal possession of explosives, and sentenced to 12 years in prison—denied this, saying he was in General Santos City at that time. However, he admitted participation in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed more than 20.

Bafana and Hambali, who is still at large, were charged before a Philippine court last month with illegal possession of explosives and firearms, in connection with the seizure of 1.2 tons of explosives and guns in al-Ghozi's safehouse in General Santos City.

They are also accused of funding the December 2000 bombings in Metro Manila, and of financing the purchase of powerful explosives for use in planned attacks against US and Israeli installations in Singapore.

Crash victims assured of insurance

AS air transport authorities announced that investigation of the LaoagAir plane crash was "about to be completed," airline officials yesterday assured survivors and relatives of the fatalities that they would receive "adequate" insurance compensation.

"We now have everything (we need)," Air Transport Office (ATO) chief Adelberto Yap said, referring to the recovery of the ill-fated Fokker 27's flight recorder on Friday. "We have the statements (of the pilots), and we have determined the level of engine power when the plane went down."

The Nov. 11 crash killed 19 out of Flight 585's 34 passengers, including five Australians and three Britons. The 15 survivors included the pilot and co-pilot.

Alvin Manuel P. Yater, Laoag International Airlines (LIA) assistant vice president for sales and marketing, said representatives of the insurance company, Heat Lambert of Australia, have arrived in Manila and were now assessing damages and payments due to the victims.

LIA's aviation fuel supplier was being "checked," Yap said, "to preclude sabotage." Airline president Paul Ng earlier said he suspected foul play by competitors.

Yap said, ATO investigators have submitted their initial findings to the Department of Transporation and Communications, which was expected to transmit a final report to President Macapagal-Arroyo soon.

"The fact-finding committee can very well meet the President's (15-day) deadline," Yap told reporters.

Yater noted that the survivors were extended the best hospital care and treatment, for which the LIA management paid. He said the airline also paid for the fatalities' funeral expenses. *With a report from AFP*

NEWSBRIEFS

RP ports on alert

CUSTOMS Commissioner Antonio Bernardo has placed all of the country's ports on alert to thwart any possible attempt to sneak into the country bomb-making materials like that found recently in six container vans at the Manila South Harbor. Customs officials, at the same time, admitted that police Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya could be right and the seized shipment that consisted of sodium xylene sulfonate and sodium nitrate—both bomb-making ingredients—might have belonged to terrorists.

"We stand by the report of Chief Supt. Berroya," said Customs Deputy Commissioner Ray Allas. "He has the expertise in such matters." Allas, citing a report by Customs Deputy Commissioner Alexander Arevalo, had earlier said the seized chemicals were "probably cleaning chemicals and equipment." In a separate telephone interview, Bernardo refused to answer queries on whether the customs bureau had evidence to conclude that the chemicals were intended for terrorist activities.

"You call General Berroya and ask him about it," Bernardo said. *Armand N. Nocum*

Princess coming to Manila

PRINCESS Margriet of the Netherlands is coming to attend the 6th Asia-Pacific Conference of the Red Cross to be held on Nov. 24-28 at the Manila Hotel, according to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

The theme of the five-day event is "Uniting for Human Dignity." The Princess, who is a chair of the standing Commission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, will give her message on the significance of the event during the plenary session on Nov. 25. PNRC Gov. Mario R. Nery, chair of the planning committee, said that the standing commission is a trustee or a planning body that organizes the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the supreme deliberative body for the movement. Nery said some 250 delegates from national Red Cross societies in the Asia-Pacific region, Middle East, Europe and the USA will attend the conference. The regional conference is normally held every four years.

UP CMC forum

SEN. Loren Legarda-Leviste will talk about Ramadan in the context of the impending US attack on Iraq in a forum of the UP College of Mass Communication (CMC) Graduate Students Association on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. at the CMC Auditorium. Also expected to share their views are Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Robert Barbers. UP faculty members and other academic experts with specialization in Islamic studies will compose the panel of reactors. The forum is free and open to the public. It is part of the week-long celebration of the grand alumni homecoming titled "An Affair in November" to be held from Nov. 18-23.

Other highlights of the event include the 4th Career Talk Day on Friday, Nov. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. UP CMC alumni are enjoined to attend the grand homecoming and reunion on Saturday, Nov. 23, 4 p.m. at the CMC parking lot. The new Media Center will also be inaugurated.

Raul Ulanday; 51

RAUL S. Ulanday of Guadalupe, Makati City, died last Thursday. He was 51. He is the brother of INQUIRER Associate Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday. He is survived by his wife, Angelina, and children Rommel, Raquel and Francisco Lopez, Rhea, and Rafael. His remains now lie in state at the Areflor Memorial Chapels on J. P. Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati City. Interment will be on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

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Palace denies hand in relief of top police exec

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG denied it had a hand in the relief of a top police official accused of having close ties with opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

Presidential spokespersonRigoberto Tiglao said President Macapagal-Arroyo did not order the relief of PNP Director Lucas Managuelod as head of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, as reports from Camp Crame said.

"That's not true. It's the (PNP) Director General (Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.) who decides on that. The President does not meddle in such things," Tiglao told reporters yesterday.

He told Palace reporters to ask Ebdane and Interior Secretary Joey Lina about Managuelod's relief.

Managuelod learned of his relief around Friday noon. He promptly wrote Lina to question the order, which he said "came from the higher-ups."

Reports quoting unnamed officials said Managuelod was monitored meeting with Lacson, who was PNP chief during the Estrada administration.

Imelda ordered to appear in court; Senate eyes probe

By Michael Lim Ubac

A MANILA court has ordered former first lady Imelda R. Marcos to personally appear before it on Dec. 10 to answer dollar-salting charges filed against her by the government.

Aside from the courts, the Senate may soon want to talk to Marcos, after her former aides started talking of a P2-billion windfall she supposedly received recently to settle her claim to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"The appearance of accused Imelda Marcos on the next scheduled hearing is hereby ordered by the court," said Judge Aida Roque of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26.

Roque had issued an order last month for Marcos to attend pretrial proceedings in the criminal cases lodged against her for alleged dollar-salting, which is against Philippine law.

"At the pre-trial today, state prosecutor Carretas appeared before this court. Only attorney Parungao appeared without accused Imelda Marcos," said Roque. She then reset the pre-trial conference to Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

Marcos is facing four dollar-salting cases before the Manila RTC, three of which had been dismissed by Judge David Nitafan in July 1992. But the Supreme Court reinstated the cases after establishing that Nitafan had dismissed them without a motion to quash from Marcos' lawyers.

The widow of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos faces 21 other dollar-salting suits before the Pasig City RTC.

Lately, she has been shunning the limelight after once-close aides started talking to the media and revealing snippets of the "real" Imelda Marcos, the one who allegedly ill-treats loyal supporters and who has the custom of never picking up the check.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel yesterday urged the Senate blue ribbon committee to summon the former first lady to shed light on the allegation.

Pimentel said the reported settlement would seem to confirm Marcos' earlier statements about her late husband having acquired huge blocs of PLDT shares during his authoritarian rule.

The shares were supposedly held in trust by the late PLDT chair Ramon Cojuangco, father of current chair Antonio Cojuangco.

The dollar-salting raps stemmed from allegations Marcos and her husband maintained dollar accounts in the Swiss Bank Corp. in Geneva totaling 16,195,258 Swiss francs but registered under another name.

Under Philippine law, Filipino citizens are barred from maintaining a foreign exchange account in any country abroad without the approval of the central bank. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Talent managers sue labor chief, Tesda boss over exorbitant fees

By Volt Contreras

AN ORGANIZATION of talent managers has filed administrative charges against labor officials over costly fees set in new regulations governing the screening of performers bound for other countries.

Some 300 members of the Philippine Overseas Entertainment Industry Foundation (POEIF) asked the Ombudsman on Thursday to stop Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Tesda chief Dante Liban from further implementing a department order which they said could drive many talent management firms out of business.

POEIF president Willie Espiritu said that for entertainers to qualify for work overseas, their managers pay licensed recruitment agencies (LRAs) up to P20,000 per artist in "endorsement fees."

It is the LRAs that endorse the artists to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) for testing. Tesda signifies a passing applicant's eligibility for foreign employment by issuing the Artist's Record Book (ARB).

This system was the result of Department Order No. 10 issued by Sto. Tomas in October 2001.

In an interview yesterday, Espiritu said managers used to directly endorse their talents to Tesda and pay only a testing fee of P800 per artist, plus P300 for the ARB.

However, in the complaint filed on Thursday with the Ombudsman's office, the POEIF objected to the DO on legal, more than economic, grounds.

Sto. Tomas had no authority to issue the order, the talent managers said, since under Republic Act No. 8042, "the power to set regulations for overseas employment still resides in the Governing Board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency."

Also cited as respondents in the complaint were Liban's predecessor Lucita Lazo and POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapiliz-Baldoz.

Espiritu's group wants Sto. Tomas et al. dismissed from government service if proven to have overstepped their authority.

19 RP sailors safe

OSLO—A Norwegian gas tanker apparently collided with a US nuclear-powered submarine in the Mediterranean two days ago, damaging the ship's hull, shipping group Leif Hoegh said Friday.

Oslo-based Leif Hoegh said its vessel, which had just unloaded a cargo of explosive natural gas in Barcelona, Spain, struck an unidentified submerged object in the western Mediterranean.

Leif Hoegh said none of the 30 crew, including 19 Filipinos, were hurt.

The collision took place at the same time and place as the US Navy reported a collision between its Oklahoma City attack submarine and an unknown merchant vessel.

There had been no leaks of oil from fuel tanks and no threat to the environment. *Reuters*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Requisites for double jeopardy - Under Article III, Section 21 of the Constitution, "No person shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment for the same offense. If an act is punished by a law and an ordinance, conviction or acquittal under either shall constitute a bar to another prosecution for the same act." In a long line of decisions, the Court has enumerated the following requisites for double jeopardy to attach: (1) upon a valid indictment; (2) before a competent court; (3) after arraignment; (4) when a valid plea has been entered; and (5) when the defendant was acquitted or convicted or the case was dismissed or otherwise terminated without the express consent of the accused. There are however 2 occasions when double jeopardy will attach even if the motion to dismiss the case is made by the accused himself. The first is when the ground is insufficiency of evidence of the prosecution; and the second is when the proceedings have been unreasonably prolonged in violation of the right to a speedy trial. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Verra, G. R. No. 134732, May 29, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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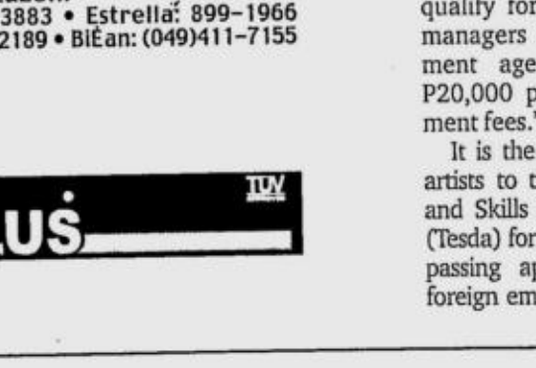

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Cabinet members offer to resign en masse

From page A1

10-year global bonds to foreign and local investors.

Roxas, Defensor

Malacanang said Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II also tendered a courtesy resignation last Thursday followed by housing czar Michael Defensor. Among the three, Camacho's resignation made the most impact on investors.

At 10 p.m. last Friday, Camacho was still meeting with President Macapagal, Tiglao and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"With all these rumors about my resignation and other insinuations that came out in other papers, I felt I needed to submit a courtesy resignation so that I would be relieved of this feeling that some would perceive I like to cling to my post," said Camacho.

He recalled that his letter sent Romulo laughing.

The government will use the proceeds of the bond sale to finance a budget shortfall next year on expectations that the deficit in 2003 would be higher than the estimated P142.1 billion.

From a target of P130 billion this year, the deficit or the difference between revenues and expenditures had widened to P166.4 billion as of September. By yearend, the number could reach between P200 and P210 billion.

While most perceived the resignation of the three government officials to be an indication of an upcoming revamp in the Cabinet, Bunye maintained that the reported reorganization was unfounded and that no major changes would take place on the 30th of the month as reported by the INQUIRER.

Datumanong agreed: "There is no indication, no gesture or body language from the President showing that she wants us to hand in our courtesy resignations."

Drilon's call

Still, Datumanong said, he and Boncodin had taken the initiative to give the President a free hand to reorganize the Cabinet.

"We owe the President and the people the offer to resign," Datumanong stressed.

He also cited the call of Senate President Franklin Drilon for the Cabinet to hand courtesy resignations as a matter of honor and tradition, with or without a Cabinet revamp," Drilon had said.

Datumanong explained that with courtesy resignations, those terminated will not lose face." With a resignation letter, the termination looks honorable."

So, why resign?

As the Palace had gone out of its way to repeatedly deny a Cabinet revamp, why did Camacho, Roxas and Defensor resign? Do they in fact intend to leave the government?

Bunye said the three officials were not wanting to resign but only did so out of *delicadeza* so they won't be perceived to be hanging on to their posts.

"I think they still wanted to serve the government. They have made long-term plans for their respective departments," said Bunye.

Camacho insisted he had no plans of really leaving the government. "There is still a lot of work to do," he stressed.

Well-admired

Prior to government service, Camacho was the country manager of Deutsche Bank. A seasoned investment banker, he is well-admired and respected by foreign and local investors.

During his short stint as energy secretary, Camacho pushed Congress to pass the Electricity Industry Reform Act to deregulate the power sector and pave the way for the privatization of the National Power Corp.

Together with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Camacho again convinced Congress to pass the Anti-Money Laundering Act to criminalize activities that recycle illegally-acquired funds into legitimate money.

Last year, Camacho shored up the confidence of the market when he led the government in containing the budget deficit to P147 billion against a target of P145 billion.

This year, however, the finance chief has not been as successful in reining the fiscal sector. Still, investors, said one banker, want him on board.

Miss America in trouble . . .

From page A1

have thought a virtuous one would be silenced for her virtue?" said Sandy Rios, president of conservative group Concerned Women for America.

Harold, 22, was a well-known abstinence advocate before she won the Miss Illinois title on her third try. Each year, she chose it as her platform and made speeches to schools on behalf of Project Reality, a Chicago nonprofit organization that promotes sexual abstinence.

But like the other Miss Illinois contestants, she signed a contract in which she agreed to adopt a youth violence platform if she won the state pageant and advanced to Miss America.

When she stood on stage Sept. 21 at the Miss America Pageant, she talked about her plans to go to Harvard Law School and answered a question about her youth violence platform. She never mentioned abstinence.

After winning the crown, though, she told pageant officials she planned to talk about chastity as she toured the nation. She was told not to. But in an Oct. 8 appearance at the National Press Club in Washington, she declared, "I will not be bullied."

Miss America chief executive George Bauer said the pageant just wanted her to do what she promised, which was stick with the platform she won on.

"It's very important to her, and I applaud people with a strong belief," Bauer said. "However, it was not the platform she competed on. She competed on the Illinois platform."

After two days of discussions with pageant officials last month, Harold prevailed, persuading the pageant to let her talk about abstinence in addition to youth violence.

"The hallmark of the Miss America Organization is its empowerment of young women to speak their mind on a variety of issues," she said. "I was troubled by the fact that there was opposition from some that are affiliated with Miss America."

In Miss America contestant circles, abstinence—as a platform issue—is a well-known turn-off.

Sex has always been a touchy subject for the pageant. Pageant officials were mortified in 1984 when sexually explicit photos of reigning Miss America Vanessa Williams appeared in Penthouse; she was forced to relinquish her crown. Last summer, Miss North Carolina resigned under pressure after her ex-boyfriend claimed to have topless photos of her. *AP*

Asian bloc backs RP . . .

From page A1

heart," he said.

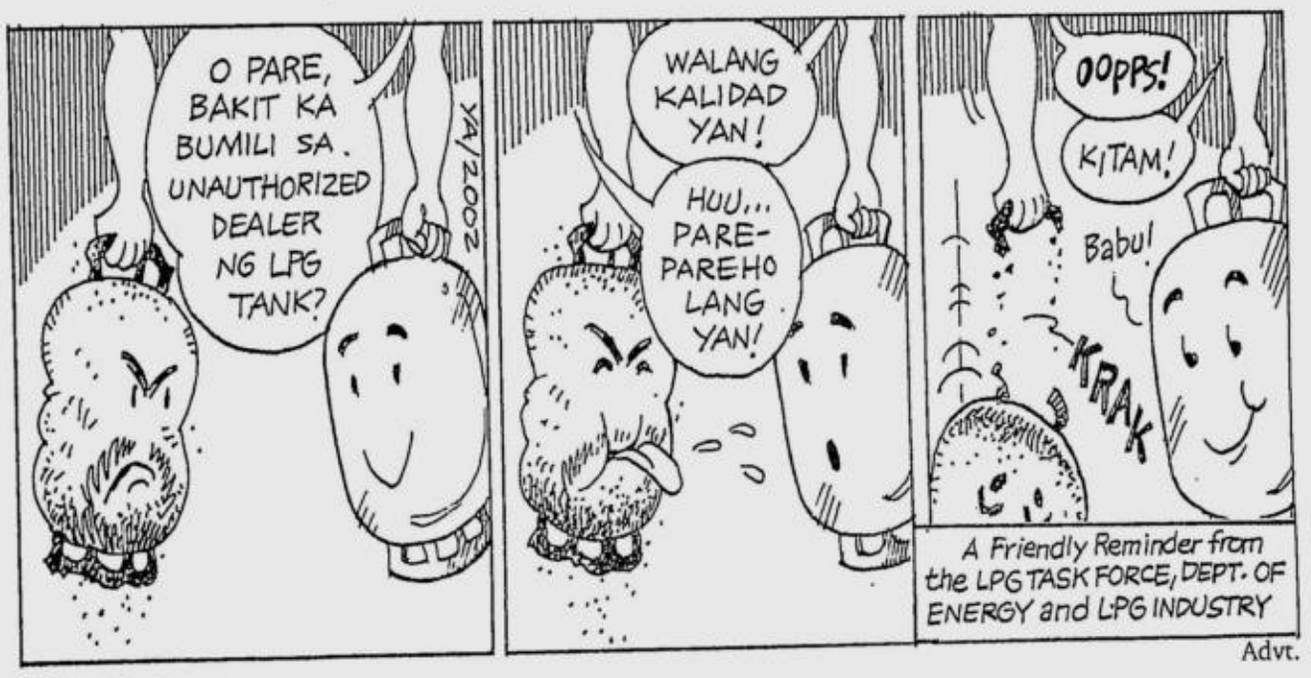
Thanks to Cambodia

Yuchengco was grateful to Cambodia, whose representative spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), for placing the endorsement motion on the table during the meeting at the United Nations.

Yuchengco's campaign included one-on-one calls on various permanent representatives to the UN Security Council and those of the 52 countries that make up the Asian group. He also consulted with ambassadors of other countries represented in the UN General Assembly and hosted luncheons and informal gatherings like the East Asian Group and the Asean-Pacific Islands Forum.

A few months ago, he hosted a special performance of the Bayanihan Dance Company at the United Nations. He also spoke before select audiences at Columbia University in New York, the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and the United Nations itself where he touched on the subject of "Strengthening the UN System."

Later this month, Yuchengco will appear before the prestigious Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Boston where he has been asked to lecture before the faculty and student body. The Fletcher invitation was extended by Stephen Bosworth, former US ambassador to the Philippines, who is dean of the school.



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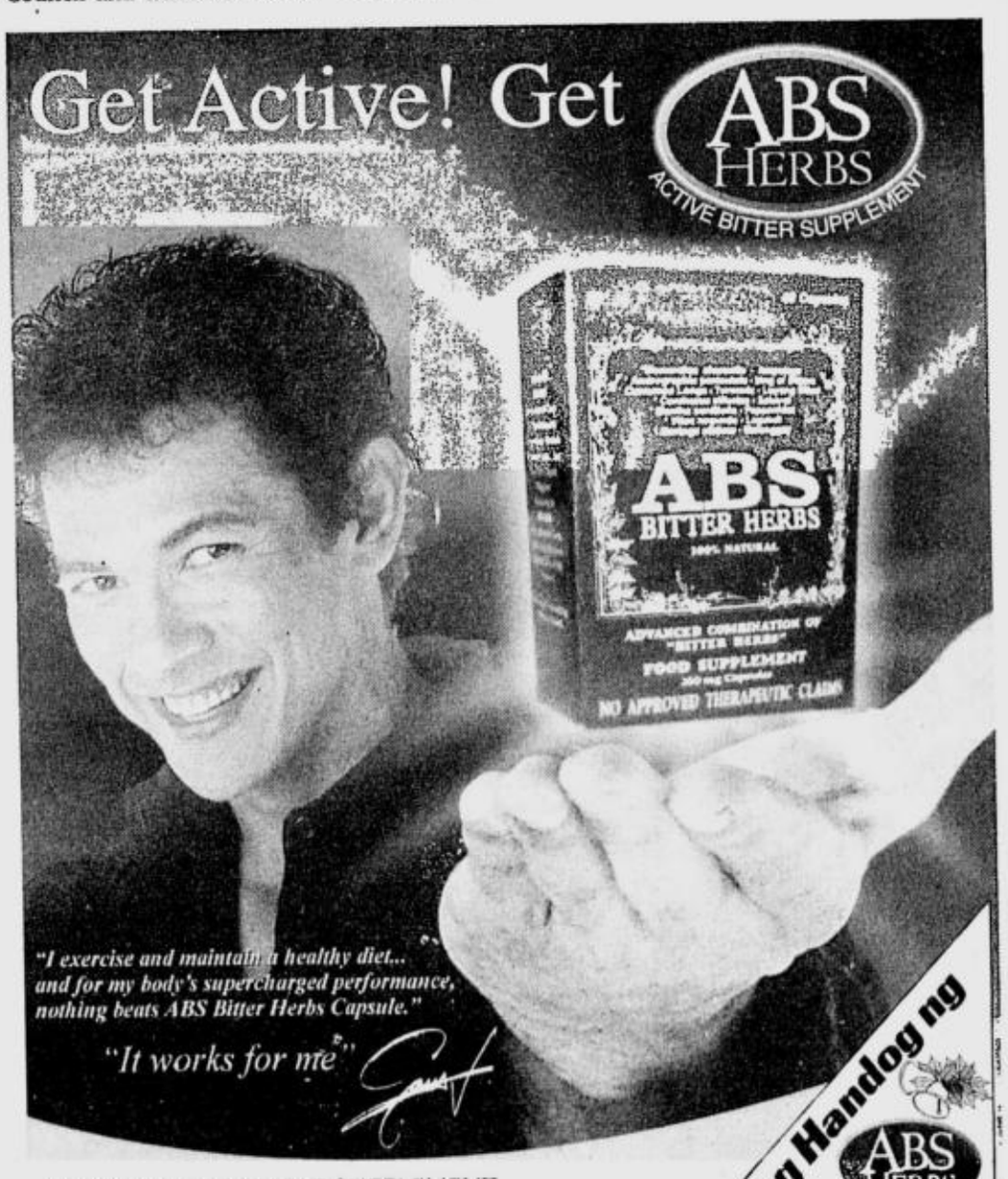

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Blackmail

THE MANILA Electric Company's ultimate argument against returning money that does not belong to it is shocking in its brazenness.

In a belated motion filed on Nov. 7, long after the case on appeal had already been submitted for resolution, Meralco warned the Supreme Court that an adverse ruling on the refund case would lead to the "inevitable collapse" of the economy. In effect, the country's largest power distributor argued, the high court must rule not on the merits of the case but on what it claimed were the certain consequences of the Court's decision.

EDITORIAL

Last Friday, the Supreme Court handed down its ruling: Meralco must refund its three million-plus customers for overcharging them since February 1994. Essentially, the tribunal held that (a) the Energy Regulatory Board, which brought the suit in 1998, had fixed a reasonable schedule of rate increases, (b) Meralco failed to prove otherwise, (c) the power firm was thus entitled to an increase of only 1.7 centavos per kilowatt-hour and (d) Meralco must return the 16.7 centavos it had overcharged its customers since 1994. The Court did not even consider Meralco's late motion, filed by the law offices of Quiason, Makalintal, Barot, Torres & Ibarra, because the issue had already been resolved by then. Because Meralco intends to appeal the ruling, however, its doomsday argument must be met squarely—and then laughed off the courts of both law and public opinion.

By the power firm's own estimate, the total refund may amount to an "unimaginable P28.15 billion." This is, to be sure, no small change. It is almost as much as the P31 billion in short- and long-term loans the company already owes. Worse, the company "has not made any provision against the potential liability, and its resources to reimburse customers and meet other financial obligations are limited," the rating agency Standard & Poor has reported. The result is likely what the company treasurer, Rafael Andrada, announced the other day: that Meralco won't be able to service over P4 billion in debt that will fall due next year. (The market response was unforgiving. Last Friday, the company's B shares, which foreign investors can trade, fell by 12 percent.)

Whether this will actually lead to the company's bankruptcy remains to be seen. But in its last-ditch attempt to stop the high court from issuing what it evidently anticipated to be an unfavorable ruling, Meralco had pulled out all the stops. It argued that paying the refund would force it out of business: the impact, its motion read, would be "so grave that it may eventually dissolve the corporate life of the respondent." The refund will cause major power outages, growing worse by the year. And because some P7 billion of company loans were guaranteed by government financial institutions, the "scenario will eventually throw the country in financial turmoil, hence, the inevitable collapse of the economy."

The response from Malacañang was swift and sharp. "We take exception to the bleak economic scenario Meralco's lawyers had foisted before the Supreme Court and media if their client loses its case," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said on Friday. "There is no doubt that all our financial system will weather the problems of one corporation." Meralco is, as the high court said, "a giant public utility and monopoly," but it is not large enough to bring the economy to its knees. The notion that the size of its government-guaranteed loans will necessarily lead to economic collapse reflects either an inflated sense of importance or the depth of its desperation; it does not mirror actual economic conditions. As legislators were quick to point out, the government can always take over Meralco's operations.

Also, there is nothing in the decision that compels the power firm to pay the refund in one lump sum. In fact, the high court gives the firm the option to "correspondingly" credit the refundable amount to the account of its customers. In other words, the refund may take the form of discounted rates in future electricity bills.

Thus, the financial prospects for Meralco may be dim, but it is hardly pitch-black. To argue otherwise is to bluff the Supreme Court, or to blackmail it.

Throwing millions to the dogs

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

FOR ONCE I agree with Sen. Vicente Sotto III. I was dismayed when he agreed some years ago with the proposal to punish rapists with, not death, but amputation of the offending organ, on the flawed reasoning that *"mas mabuti ang putol kay sa patay."* He obviously did not understand the Bill of Rights. On another occasion, he said of an adversary that "if he does not stop telling lies about me, I will have to start telling the truth about him." That cliché was old when I was young.

But now he is at last talking sense. And his subject is not the local movie industry or the candidacy of Fernando Poe Jr., or the mindless *bakya* crowd that is his bailiwick. His subject is the bomb-sniffing dogs.

It appears that the PNP is planning to purchase such dogs at a cost of P80 million—repeat, P80 million—in connection with its anti-terrorism campaign. The PNP personnel does not seem to have a nose for bombs and, for that matter, crimes in general, and needs the assistance of these more efficient canines.

The report did not indicate how many sniffing dogs were to be purchased, or their average price, but the cost must be tremendous, considering their pedigree and special talents. Add to this, as Senator Sotto validly points out, the necessary expenses of food, training and maintenance of these animals, and the total outlay will increase the already alarmingly heavy fund allocation to the PNP.

According to Sotto, the dogs purchased during the Ramos administration have proved ineffective in performing the work expected of them. The reason was their poor maintenance and lack of proper nutrition, which should include steaks and other expensive food. The acquisition of additional K9s, which are likely to be also inadequately maintained and fed, will only compound the original mistake.

Sotto suggests instead the purchase of modern sophisticated bomb-scanning equipment that will probably cost less in the long run than the million-peso dogs. "They are more reliable," he says of the machines, "and the intensive training for personnel (to operate them) is not so expensive." I agree, if only because the persons to be trained do not have to be nourished with steaks like the privileged dogs.

That last point raises some delicate questions of propriety and priority. I just can't see the reason for feeding steaks to dogs, whatever their category and importance, when millions of our people are starving, and hundreds if not thousands of them are dying for lack of sustenance. Last month, a mother killed her two children because she did not want to see them starve to death. Hunger must be driving many of our countrymen to desperation and crime unlike the well-fed dogs.

Even conceding the importance (albeit not the indispensability) of the K9s to our anti-terrorism campaign, I cannot support the priority the PNP would give them over the more demanding basic needs of the human beings forming what our Constitution calls our "just and humane society." That society calls for its giving primary attention to people, not animals.

The military may argue that the sniffing dogs are part of their armory and so should be acquired like bullets and cannon and other weapons necessary to repel internal and external aggression. Modern aircraft and smart bombs and guided missiles can better perform that function, but we simply do not have the means to acquire them. We are a poor country that cannot even balance our budget or reduce our foreign debt. And yet, like a stupid spendthrift dismissive of our demanding obligations, we would recklessly throw P80 million to the dogs.

That amount could go a long way in increasing the pay of the soldiers themselves who are facing more danger than the coddled dogs under the tender care of their trainers. Teachers could be rewarded more fairly, and hundreds of schools could be opened and their conditions improved with that largesse. More health centers could be established and free medicines distributed among the poor who cannot afford to cure themselves. Part of that tremendous amount could even be used for garbage collection and disposal.

Senator Sotto is right in suggesting his more rational alternatives to the extravagant purchase and maintenance of those expensive dogs that, as experience has sadly shown, have not proved useful in fighting terrorism. Consider the bombings in Zamboanga City, to take but one example. The K9s are overrated like the military and the police that, together, have not subdued the once skimpy but now strengthened Abu Sayyaf or solved the year-old Nida Blanca murder. The PNP outlay should not be increased if it will only be squandered on the purchase of the high-priced dogs.

I hope Senator Sotto's vigilant opposition to the impractical and improvident plan of the PNP to waste P80 million on the acquisition of bomb-sniffing dogs will prevent yet another prodigality with the people's money and, no less embarrassing, yet another disclosure of our foolish sense of values that would prefer dogs to human beings.

Four 'gives'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ARE you ready to try a math magic? Your cell phone's last number x 2, add 5, x 50, add your age, plus 365, minus 615. The last two numbers will show your age and the first number is your cell phone's last number. Try it. It is fun, and it really works!

* * *

The Gospel today (Mt. 25,14-30) is about the parable of the talents. The Lord has given each one of us different talents. The problem however is that we use our talents differently. Some maximize their talents while others waste their talents. Take for example the math magic we shared above: did you actually try it? If so, congratulations. If not, why? No time? A trivial matter? Kid stuff? Math is not your forte? Etc.? Etc.? The reasons you stated are probably right. But, these precisely are the very reasons why many of your other talents are never discovered, and are never tapped. Now, care to try it? It won't take more than a minute of your time. Just do it.

* * *

We have a confrere in our SVD Seminary in Tagaytay who is so thankful he finally discovered something, after six months. He told me that the hardest thing for him to do was to take a shower in the morning as Tagaytay weather could be rather cold. And so, he would jump and shout and do all sorts of rituals whenever he had to shower. Until one day he turned a knob, and lo and behold, hot water came out. It was there, all the while, all along, and he never knew it. How did he find out? He had the openness to share his predicament with others. He also had the humility, with his doctorate and all, to ask others about it. If we are open, and if we are humble, we can discover, use and maximize our hidden talents.

* * *

What's in a name? Somebody said that each one of us has three names: the name we inherited from our family, the name given to us by our parents and the name we have made for ourselves. The first two are given, while the last is made. Likewise, we have our God-given talents. We were born with them. But, like our given and inherited names, we can either maximize or waste our talents. The choice is really up to us. The choice is ours too if we will use our talents for goodness or for evil. Are you living up to your name? What name are you making for yourself? Are you living up to your talents? What are you making out of your talents?

* * *

Some people are really very talented, like some politicians who are very talented in making money and staying on in power. Or some people who are good in business and who enrich themselves at the expense of others. Yes, there are a lot of people who have and who use their talents for wrong purposes. Every gift, every charism, every talent is to be used for service, not for self-aggrandizement. Remember that every gift carries with it a responsibility. "To whom much is given, much is also required."

* * *

Somebody once said that when we are born, we are what we are given. When we die, we are what we have given. Are you a giving person? Are you giving enough? Are you giving right? Are you giving with love? These are the "four gives" we have to raise continuously in life: Giver *ka ba*? Give *na* give *ka ba*? Give right *ka ba*? Give love *ka ba*? If you can answer, YES to all these questions, congratulations! Give me five!

* * *

In humility, I would like to share one life treasure of mine. I always give my first and last waking moments to God. It is my habit to kneel down right away as soon as I wake up and just before sleeping to thank God for another day. The act of kneeling down is a beautiful gesture of humility and surrendering that puts everything in place. (Try it tonight before you sleep and tomorrow morning if you wake up.) Recently, I realized how deeply ingrained this habit has become when I woke up, knelt down right away and heard a voice from behind: "Are you all right Father Jerry?" It was the stewardess who must have been so surprised seeing me kneeling down, holding on to the seat in front of me on a long haul PAL flight recently! I just smiled as I gave her the OK sign. Deep inside, I wanted to tell her that "I am all right. God is in control. Just getting my bearings and looking for my soul, first thing in the morning." That's it. As long as we do not forget the Giver of our gifts, and as long as we go on giving our gifts, we will be all right.

* * *

Would you care to try another trivia? Rearrange the letters WE SAT THERE, and you will come up with a beautiful word of endearment. Don't just sit there. Work on it. A lot of opportunities, a lot of chances, a lot of relationships precisely are passing you by because you just sit there. Give it a try, sweetheart!

* * *

This coming Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King, the King of all Kings, the King of the Universe. Let us consecrate our lives, our families, our country and the whole world to Christ our King. Here in Christ the King Seminary (E. Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City) which has produced so many Filipino missionaries through the years, we will have a procession and consecration with benediction to be led by Bishop Antonio Palang, SVD, DD starting with a 5 p.m. Mass. Give Christ the King some of your time. See you!

* * *

A Moment with the Lord

Lord, Giver of all that I am and all that I have, help me to give, give much, give right and give love while I live. Amen.

China's new leader: still cautious and enigmatic

BEIJING—China's new leader spent his first day atop the world's most populous nation the same way he spent his decade-long wait as heir apparent—revealing little, careful not to upstage his predecessor, President Jiang Zemin.

The official media on Saturday provided few additional clues about Hu Jintao, the enigmatic former engineer who was named to lead China's all-powerful Communist Party through a time of sweeping economic reform and social upheaval.

Hu, 59, took over as party general secretary on Friday as part of a generational shift that was the first orderly transition of power in the party's 81-year history.

But few people in China know anything about Hu and have rarely even seen him, despite years of political grooming and serving as China's vice president.

Front-page photographs in many state-run newspapers showed Hu standing alongside Jiang, who will stay on as military chief.

In a sign of Jiang's continued influence, other newspapers prominently ran photographs of him alone in an olive-drab tunic like that favored by communist China's founder, Mao Zedong.

Jiang, 76, ensured himself a voice in the party's ruling council, the Politburo Standing Committee, by installing six of his supporters among the nine new members, who were also named Friday.

"A group of energetic leaders with great ability have entered the central leading organizations, and it indicates that the party is flourishing and has great prospects," said an editorial in the party mouthpiece People's Daily.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Martin Fackler

Few people in China know anything about Hu and have rarely even seen him, despite years of political grooming and serving as China's vice president

Hu, who built hydroelectric stations before entering politics, has vowed to adhere to Jiang's policies of opening the economy and broadening party membership while keeping tight control of politics.

Hu appeared calm but cautious in his brief, mostly televised appearances after taking China's helm. He never spoke longer than a few minutes, sticking closely to prepared remarks and offering no off-the-cuff comments or other glimpses into his personality.

It's a cautious style that Hu has followed since being picked in the early 1990s as Jiang's successor by Deng Xiaoping, the late supreme leader who launched economic reform and also installed Jiang.

Keeping his personality and politics a mystery to outsiders was key to his rise in a system whose political landscape is littered with the wrecked careers of former heirs apparent who offended their patron or were linked too closely to a policy failure.

Diplomats and officials who met Hu on his trip this year to the United States and in other rare contact with foreigners say he left an impression of intelligence but little else. Most Chinese hadn't heard his voice until 1999, when he spoke on national television during anti-American rioting ignited by the Nato bombing of China's embassy in Belgrade.

Hu is expected to take over the presidency in March from Jiang, who ruled China for 13 years following the 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen Square.

The makeup of the Standing Committee means Hu, like Jiang before him, will have to wait years to emerge from his predecessor's shadow.

Hu was the only member of the previous seven-member Standing Committee reelected this week. The others, all but one of them in their 70s, gave up their seats.

The new leaders inherit Asia's fastest-growing economy, with trade and foreign investment headed for record highs this year. But the Chinese also are looking to them to solve daunting problems—chronic corruption, growing gaps in wealth and mounting layoffs as state industries seek profitability. *AP*

Pocket histories

STAND warned: here comes Pollyanna.

Setting aside the politicians, by and large a hopeless lot, there are an abundant number of people, places and things to love about our homeland.

That, in fact, is the lesson the eminent historian Renato Constantino delivered unrelentingly in nurturing intellectual discourses. His departure diminished Filipinos, but his treatises continue to enrich the nationalist outlook.

COMMENTARY

Joan Orendain

Now, to debunk a few myths brought to light deus ex machina, sort of, on detours driven through to Northern Luzon.

Myth: Filipinos are lazy layabouts and *istambays*. Fact: If there are no job opportunities, what motivation is there to get up and go? Where?

In the old town of Luna in La Union, as far as the eye can see on either end of the shoreline, men are busy on Pebble Beach. Every square inch of the kilometers-long beach is covered with piebald rocks. Speckled white and grey oval stones, or plain grey, or smaller azure, red and yellow pebbles, or cream rocks, in all about a dozen varieties abound in unending supply.

The job of sorting and classifying them into piles, likewise, is unending. Amateur scientists say the rocks are washed down from the mountain by the Amburayan River. The locals, people of deep faith, say the opposite: that God sees to it the rock supply never runs out, so they can sell them to building contractors, "turning stone to bread" on their tables. They toil in the hot sun, uncomplaining and grateful for the bounty.

Off the beaten track, Luna lies on the old Spanish coastal road. Statues of Antonio Luna on horseback adorn the town, which has a lovely old church resplendently done up in blue and white. A little known fact about the hero is that he founded the Club Filipino in 1898.

Ilustrados came upon Buffalo Bill and some American Indians at the 1889 Paris Exposition. Identifying with the Indian braves' oppression, the Luna bothers Antonio and Juan (whose painting "Parisian Life" caused a recent ruckus), Jose Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar, Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, Valentin Ventura and Baldomero Roxas, adopted Indios Bravos as their collective name.

When the Indios Bravos returned to Manila, Antonio Luna felt the need to create a Filipino club "to fight for national independence through the propagation of culture, the arts, knowledge, well-being and patriotism of the people." Dr. Valentin Guidote, 19 and a physician, offered his grand home on two hectares on Legarda Street. Juan Luna and Ramon Genato draped Filipino flags and garlands in "a setting without compare," for its inauguration, a newspaper reported. Club Filipino Independiente offered large halls and salons, a study, a lecture hall and library, a pool room, canteen, gym, fencing hall, a shooting gallery, boating facilities and a huge yard for outdoor games.

After receiving a doctorate in chemistry in Madrid, military studies pursued at Ghent in Belgium qualified Brigadier Gen. Antonio Luna for his post in the Katipunan as director of war three months after Club Filipino's founding. Battles he led against the Americans at La Loma and Calumpit were among the revolution's bloodiest. A victim of intrigue, he was killed in June 1899 by Aguinaldo's men.

On another road less traveled—the Camiling-Dagupan-Damortis Road—another myth is jettisoned: the Philippines is dirty and Filipinos are dirty. Shady acacia lanes and green fields reminiscent of Amorsolo at his best are traversed through the humble, clean towns of Santa Ignacia, Camiling (Gregorio Brilliantes and Carlos P. Romulo's hometown), and San Clemente, all in Tarlac province.

Suddenly, in Pangasinan, an idyllic scene-change from verdant fields to a proliferation of large, serene fish ponds. There, clear up from Mangatarem to Dagupan, they labor to bring bangus to feed Central and Northern Luzon.

At San Fabian, directions are sought from a middle-aged woman seated on a tree stump, her grandchildren gathered around her skirt. An appreciative *maraming salamat po* makes her day. Her broad smile makes yours. Symbiosis. Vibrations. These are Pinoy.

An all-steel, bullet-riddled lighthouse of 1903 vintage stands all but forgotten at Poro Point in San Fernando, La Union. Mayor Mary Jane Ortega had it painted last year, but it's a tug of war between man and the sea to keep it from rusting. The sea wins.

The lighthouse keeper's home is what Philippine architects describe as belonging to the Gabaldon style. Built above the ground in concrete, front steps lead up to a balustraded porch on to a corridor with two rooms on either side, straight out the back door on to another porch, also balustraded. (In New Orleans, it would be called a shotgun house because one can shoot from the front door right through the back door.) Esperanza Fajardo, the lighthouse keeper's wife, keeps weapons of hardened clay rocks on her back porch, to hurl at marauding goats in her vegetable garden.

Bombs spewed from American planes over Bacsil Ridge, where Japanese and Filipinos fought hand-to-hand from February to March 1945. The Filipino heroes finally won, though hundreds died. Not in vain, because it hastened the Battle of Bessang Pass in Southeastern Ilocos Sur, which led to Yamashita's eventual capitulation.

An impressive Botanical Garden, also built by Mary Jane, lies in another forest glade close by. At a sanitary landfill, two backhoes turn the soil over round the clock to bury close to two tons of the city's garbage, a model dump lauded by the World Bank.

In yet another hidden corner of the city are the Carmelite nuns cheek by jowl with the Pindangan Ruins. Few vestiges, pieces of wall, a pediment which may have supported a choir loft, an elevated altar and a sacristy, remain of what must once have been a magnificent cathedral. Three crumbling stone lions indicate that Chinese artisans, the first Asian OCWs, built it. In the gathering dusk, Mother Angelina locks the gate after the tour, against the day nothing is left.

Sunset and the South China Sea—far away from bomb threats, empty talk of non-existent coups by thoughtless airheads—here is the Philippine heartland in which to revel.

Joan Orendain is a wanderlust and freelance journalist.

Food and photo-ops

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE'S no resisting the patriotic palate, the taste buds that refuse to forget. Doreen Fernandez once wrote that the secret to a country's cuisine making it to the world map was a people "who could not eat anything else." So that, wherever they went in the world, they brought the tastes, the flavors, the aromas and the ingredients of their cooking.

That's how the Chinese, the Japanese, the Thai and Vietnamese elevated their cuisine from their parochial origins to global popularity. And yet, why is it that despite decades of Filipino migration, and the numbers and sheer reach of our Pinoy brethren abroad, Filipino cuisine still has to attain international recognition?

Is it because the Filipino palate, like the mindset of its people, is so adaptable and versatile that any food, any sort of cooking, is tolerable? Or is our taste-memory so fragile it evaporates with distance and time? Perhaps our cuisine's obscurity is due to Filipinos like Carl, the New York-based chef that Aga Muhlach plays in "Kailangan Kita." Asked by his future in-laws what he plans to prepare for his wedding reception, he boasts of an "all-Filipino" menu, but the dishes he mentions are all colonial in origin, fiesta dishes that rarely make it to the everyday table of ordinary families.

In contrast, there's Lena (Claudine Barretto) whose kitchen repertoire consists almost entirely of Bicolano dishes, rooted in the earth and seas of Bicol, ruled by the tastes of her kinfolk, but especially her father whose taste buds allow only for food bathed in coconut cream spiked with chili. (So rich and numerous are the *gata*-based dishes on their family table that it's a wonder they don't all collapse from cholesterol overdose.)

* * *

PUBLICITY for the movie centered on the love and sex angle, exploiting the fact that for this film, Claudine, an erstwhile "wholesome" teen star and soap opera princess, was going "bold."

But the sex hype is just that, hype. The lovemaking in the barn lasts barely five minutes and doesn't go beyond torrid kissing and bare shoulders. Much has also been made of Claudine going braless in the movie, as if *probinsyanas* don't know any better than to traipse about town with their nipples on display. But while her wardrobe gives the impression that the production people must have bought off the entire supply of white eyelet blouses in Greenhills, Claudine's assets remain largely under wraps (unless you've kept your eyes peeled for them, but I had my eyes on Aga).

What I did like about the movie, aside from the technical polish (I thought the lighting was particularly inspired, bringing out delicious flesh tones), was the way it explored Carl's "return" to his Filipino roots by way of his palate. Initially eschewing *gata* and *sili*, an "allergy" brought on by an unhappy childhood, he finds his inner Bicolano by reawakening his dormant culinary memory. And in a most dramatic fashion, he even reunites with his estranged father by way of a cooking lesson on the classic *laing*.

Maybe it's not the need to bring the tastes of home with us wherever we go that will introduce Filipino cooking—and the Philippines—to the rest of the world. Maybe what matters more is that we nurture a constant desire to be Filipino, and the impulse to show off what is best about us, be it our food, our ways or our heart.

* * *

MY friend Peachy and I were the lucky beneficiaries of tickets to Regine Velasquez's "Songbird" concert at Onstage in Greenbelt. While Regine was as usual excellent, with new and startling arrangements of her favorites upping the excitement, her performance is not what I'd like to write about.

I've been to the concerts of other local performers, but it's only at Regine's that I've seen picture-taking evolving into a portion of its own. While some concert producers discourage the audience from taking pictures, with some going to the extent of confiscating cameras, during Regine's concerts snap-happy fans are not only tolerated, they're also accommodated.

During the "Movies" concert at the Music Museum, Regine graciously accepted bouquets from her fans, then gave a knowing smile and a teasing remark when a camera-toting friend or relative would suddenly pop up and take a shot of the moment. At Onstage, I sat beside a pair of obvious Regine devotees who not only jumped from their seats to take a shot whenever "Asia's Songbird" came within flashbulb distance (quite an incentive to buy orchestra tickets), but also sang along with her more familiar hits, as did we, for that matter.

* * *

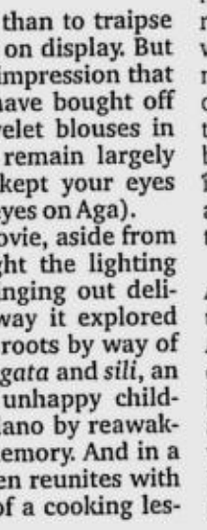
AT ONE point during the concert, Regine left the stage and mingled among the audience. And when she spotted shy fans brandishing a camera, she would call them to her and gamely pose, all the while keeping up with her singing. A couple even brought their little girl with them, endlessly thrilled, I bet, when Regine knelt down to the toddler's level for a precious photo-op.

What I found most interesting was the way the fans reacted. After a successful photo-op, they would run squealing to their companions, hugging each other like they were Ateneo players after bagging the championship.

One of the things I find most amusing and delightful about Regine is how she hasn't, despite all the success she's achieved, allowed her stature to get to her head. In her interviews and spiels, she remains refreshingly down-to-earth and self-aware. During her concert, she even comically referred to herself as a "full-fledged best actress," referring to an award she won for a role in a tele-drama. Doubtless, this accessibility and openness, as well as great talent, are what keep her at the top of her game.

When freedom is an empty shell

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

IN 1946, after hijacking our war against Spain and keeping us for nearly 50 years as a colonial possession, the United States of America gave us back our freedom. That freedom was empty and meaningless because it was given with many strings attached. Our leaders accepted it because they thought this was still better than a mere promise. Moreover, our people hoped that America, victorious in war, would have the decency to help our country rise from the devastation of the war, which after all was America's war.

Two of the sturdiest strings that kept us fastened to America's political and economic life long after independence were the Military Bases Agreement and the Laurel-Langley Agreement. The bases agreement of March 1947 allowed the United States to keep practically all its military bases in the Philippines and enjoy almost full extraterritorial sovereignty in the lands they occupied. The lease was supposed to run for 99 years, but this was reduced to 44 years in 1966, renewable under a new treaty. In a rare moment of nationalist sensibility, the Philippine Senate rejected a new treaty that sought to extend the term of US facilities in the country beyond September 1991.

The Laurel-Langley Agreement has received far less public attention. The agreement, a revised version of the Bell Trade Act of 1946, was basically a trade arrangement. But in addition, it gave Americans equal rights as Filipinos to exploit the country's natural resources, engage in any business activity they chose and own land. These rights were known as parity rights because they were meant to be reciprocal—Filipinos were to enjoy the same rights in the United States. Everyone knew that parity was absurd. But our desire to obtain full war damage compensation made us swallow our pride. We signed it in September 1955 and looked forward to its expiration in 1974.

Filipinos had become habituated to American domination of the economy that hardly anyone noticed that the agreement was due to expire. Only the growing nationalism of the youth in the '60s and early '70s kept the issue alive in the public consciousness. In August 1972, a month before Marcos declared martial law, the Supreme Court ruled on a question posed by William Quasha, an American lawyer residing in the Philippines. Quasha wanted to know if he could remain the owner of a piece of agricultural land acquired under the Laurel-Langley Agreement after 1974.

To Quasha's and America's dismay, the Supreme Court (which included Roberto Concepcion and JBL Reyes) ruled not only that American ownership rights would not be honored beyond 1974 but that such ownership had been illegal since 1946! This was a court that said No to America, antedating by 20 years the Senate that said No to a new bases treaty in 1991. Such have been the peaks of Filipino nationalism; they all took shape against the vibrant background of student activism.

Quasha's woes were however relieved by Marcos soon after he seized power as a dictator. To win American approval for martial law, Marcos told American firms that they would not lose their landholdings without just compensation. He assured them that notwithstanding the Supreme Court ruling, these properties would not be confiscated. A presidential decree he issued blunted the Supreme Court order, and gave American firms until May 1975 to submit divestment plans for the lands they occupied, assuring them of zero disruption in their operations, as they would be allowed to lease the same lands. Sure enough, many of these companies entered into paper arrangements with their Filipino employees or partners, ceding ownership to local entities but leasing the same properties back.

Others, like Getty Oil Co., opted to play the altruist game by donating these lands to educational institutions like the University of the Philippines. The deed of donation from Getty to UP was absolute and unconditional. It covered five parcels of land in Pandacan. But its consummation was made contingent upon UP's willingness to sign a 25-year leaseback agreement based on terms dictated by the American donor. As in 1946, the American was saying: "Here's your land—take it as a gift. But you can have it only if you agree to let me use it for as long as I want." I do not know by what name lawyers refer to such immoral agreements between two highly unequal parties. But I am certain that the 1974 Supreme Court would not have countenanced such charades.

Getty's holdings and rights in the country were subsequently transferred to Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., the local subsidiary of Shell, the multinational firm whose vaunted corporate social responsibility it advertises so abundantly. The lease contract with UP for the Pandacan property expired in May 2000, and UP wants the land back. Shell demands that it be automatically renewed for another 25 years, pursuant to a 1977 amendment. The understanding is that, while the lease could be renewed only by mutual agreement, if there is a change in law or policy that makes it permissible later for alien corporations to lease lands beyond 25 years, the renewal of the lease would be automatic.

Shell thinks the Investor's Lease Act of 1993, which allows aliens to lease land for 75 years, fulfills this condition. On this basis, it wants UP to automatically renew the lease on the same terms as the 1975 agreement. UP opposes automatic renewal and, at the very least, it demands an adjustment in the terms of the contract. Shell has sued.

This is more than a question of law; this is a question of what it takes to achieve freedom that is more than an empty shell.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Will 5 new mysteries rekindle interest in the rosary?

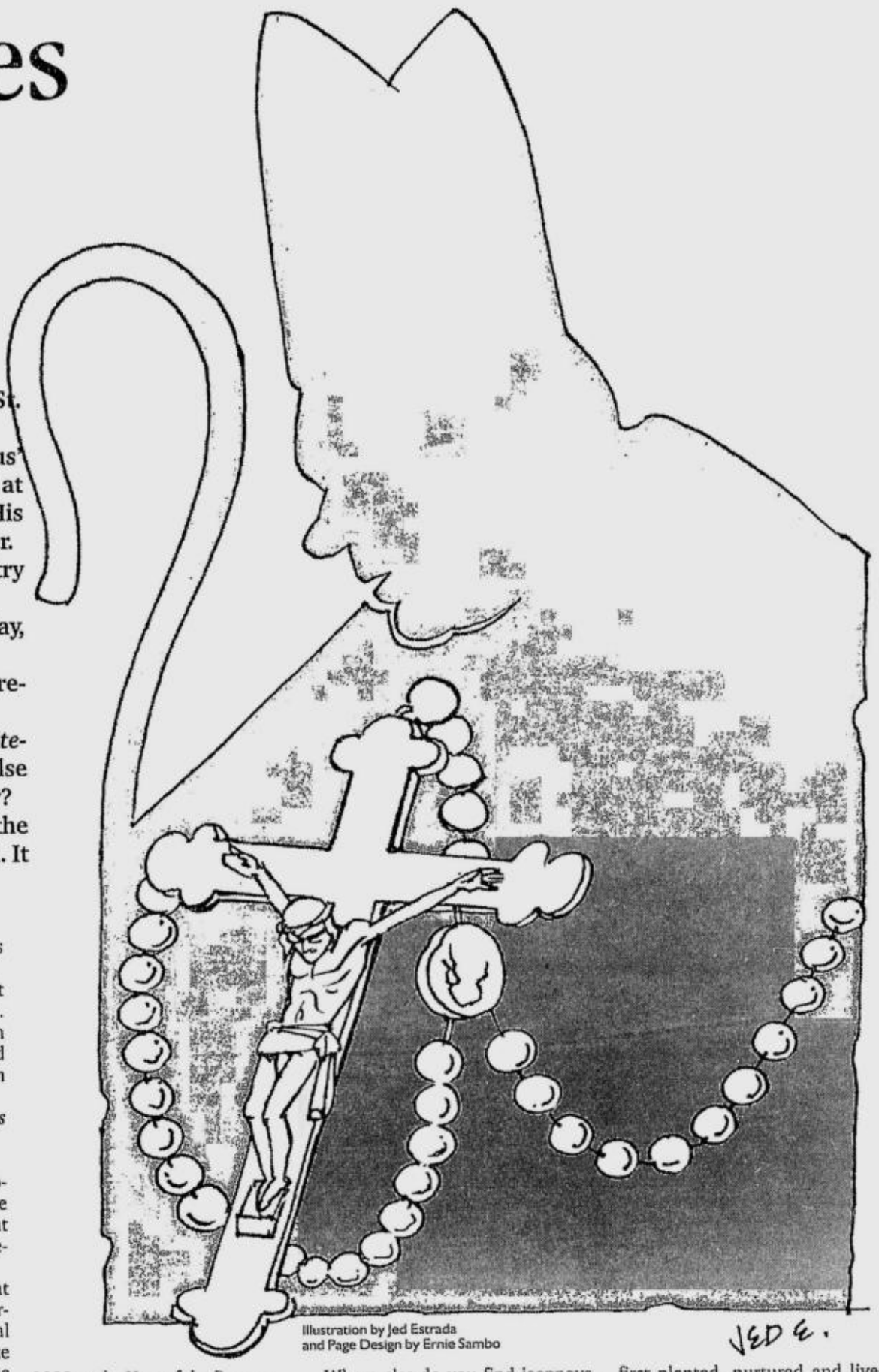


Illustration by Jed Estrada and Page Design by Ernie Sambo

THE ROSARY as Filipino Catholics know it has been unchanged since Pope St. Pius V standardized it in 1569.

Last month, Pope John Paul II introduced five new mysteries. These are Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, His self-manifestation and miracle at the wedding at Cana, His proclamation of the Kingdom of God with his call to conversion, His transfiguration at Mt. Tabor, and His institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

These are called "Mysteries of Light" because they represent the public ministry of Jesus, who said of Himself as "the Light of the World."

The new mysteries will be prayed on Thursday, the joyful on Monday and Saturday, the sorrowful on Tuesday and Friday, and the glorious on Wednesday and Sunday.

The Pope said the new mysteries were "meant to give fresh life and rekindle renewed interest in the rosary's place within Christian spirituality."

Filipinos revere the rosary. Where else can one find jeepneys, buses, cars, *caritelas*, and pedicabs with rosaries hanging from their rear-view mirrors? Where else can one find a people power revolution accompanied by the praying of the rosary?

But adding new mysteries may not encourage more young people to finger the beads of the rosary in this age of the Internet, cell phones, cable TV, and fast food. It will take "conversion" and deep religiosity.

'Adding new mysteries won't encourage people to pray'

PRAYING, for me, is a matter of attitude. Adding mysteries to the Holy Rosary will not really encourage people to pray. Only devout Catholics will be inspired to pray the rosary all the more.

People should have a change in attitude within themselves in order for the Catholic hierarchy to lure more devotees of the Holy Rosary.

In my case, I've been praying the rosary since I was a grade school pupil in Ilocos. Until now, I pray the rosary but not so much to ask something from God. I usually pray for somebody or to ask Him to relieve me of my tension. He has never failed me ever since.

During my school days, I would pray the rosary before contests and tests. I needed something to relieve me of my tension and the rosary played that role.

Last summer was most trying for me. I was dragged into this rift with some people. In those tension-filled moments, I would close my eyes and pray the rosary. I would feel better afterward.

I feel I emerged as a much stronger and more God-fearing person after that tiring summer experience.

Praying for me is also more of a reflection than a means to gain favor from the Lord.

In the case of the rosary, I relate each of the mysteries to my life experiences. I related the Annunciation to my pregnancy, the Visitation to my friends' visit when they knew that I was about to give birth to my daughter, the Birth of Christ to Karen's birth.

Adding the Mysteries of Light to the Holy Rosary would certainly give me more opportunities to reflect on my life.

--Chrisma C. Bangaoil, teacher

'I'm surprised that there are new mysteries'

I'M surprised to learn that there are new mysteries added to the rosary. My parents, who are very religious, will also be surprised.

The Catholic Church needs to exert more effort in increasing the flock's awareness of the Mysteries of Light.

Many of us Catholics are not yet informed about these changes.

I don't see anything wrong with the new mysteries. People should not see them as an added burden in praying the rosary.

--Trina Ching, *new business administration graduate*

I am aware that there's a proposal to add new mysteries to the rosary but I have no idea that Catholic Church is now implementing it.

I even don't have any idea that it was launched on Oct. 31. Nevertheless, I welcome the additional mysteries even if these will take additional time in praying the rosary. Any prayers that can enhance the faith and nourish our soul are news that everyone should welcome.

As a Catholic, I know how to pray the rosary. I even memorized all the mysteries and other prayers included in reciting the rosary. However, I don't pray the rosary on a regular basis as in every night. I just do it occasionally.

--Pinky S. Pedronia *(Interviews by Christian V. Esguerra and Chona Galang)*

'The family that prays together stays together'

IT could not have come at a more opportune time (warring nations, dysfunctional families, broken homes, battered wives and children, bombings, kidnappings) when His Holiness John Paul II jolted Christendom with his Apostolic Letter introducing the new Mysteries of Light and declaring October 2002-October 2003 as the Year of the Rosary.

Surely the Luminous Mysteries *(Mysteria Lucis)* were divinely inspired. The Pope has strengthened a simple prayer, the rosary, to become a more "potent weapon" against darkness and evil.

Lest it cause unnecessary confusion, the Holy Father has laid down in his Apostolic Letter the following: "It is not my intention to encumber but rather to complete and consolidate the pastoral programs of the particular Churches..."

In adding the Mysteries of Light, he has somehow rediscovered the missing links that make the mysteries of the rosary go full circle in its completeness as meditations on the life of Christ. What a world of difference it makes!

It is a popular perception that, like the rosary's essential character of being a Marian prayer, the Philippines is basically a "motherly" society. And no doubt the Filipinos are a truly Marian people. For where else in the entire world do people address the Blessed Virgin Mother as Mama Mary? Where else do you find jeepneys, buses, cars, *caritelas* and even pedicabs with rosaries hanging from their rear-view mirrors and every so often seeing the driver's hand touching the beads? Where else can you find statues of the Sto. Niño and the Blessed Virgin gracing stores, restaurants, offices, shopping malls and even airports?

And isn't it a fact that in almost every home, rich or poor alike, you find an altar, a place of prayer? Homes in provinces have pictures of Mama Mary cut out from magazines and calendars all plastered on walls. We see Marian processions with loudspeakers continuously praying the rosary and singing Marian hymns.

Upheavals

Recent political upheavals at Edsa have unwittingly proven our belief in divine intervention and the ever-powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother.

We hope and pray that every home will become a "domestic church," where the children are taught the basic truths of our faith, where the spiritual fiber is first planted, nurtured and lived out.

If the family is worth saving, let's take to heart the famous words of Servant of God Fr. Patrick Peyton, CSC ... "The family that prays together stays together."

This is the reason why the Family Rosary Crusade founded by Fr. Peyton has, for the past 51 years and counting, been actively engaged in the propagation of the Family Rosary through its TV and radio programs, films, billboards and books. It makes our work even more exciting and challenging with the introduction of the new mysteries--strengthening further the mission to keep the family together by promoting the praying of the rosary.

We remain upbeat and positive that these new mysteries will strike a chord and ignite a fire in people's hearts, and help them remember that the greatest things we can ever hope for is to belong to a loving family and have peace of mind.

--Gennie Q. Jota, *Family Rosary Crusade*

'The rosary is a prayer for peace'

OUR nation is seemingly drawn to a worldwide effort against terrorism. Incidents of bombings in particular cities even put our country near center stage of terrorist activity. Yet we ask: where does this all ultimately lead? More intolerance among those with divergent beliefs, a possible Middle East war that would wreak further havoc on our weakening economy, greater uncertainties for Filipinos working overseas. How will the forthcoming series of events affect Filipinos?

The mysteries of the human person are also the mysteries of Jesus Christ. We can prevail; we can endure whatever looms ahead if there is faith and trust in the God who journeys with His people. The mysteries of the light focus on the hope that Jesus offers a discouraged and directionless world. The key events in the public ministry of Jesus form these mysteries of the light. Jesus, born in Asia, born of the Virgin Mary, is the Light of the World, a Gift to Humanity.

Filipinos can identify their current plight with the words and deeds of Jesus as He went about proclaiming the Reign of God among the poor. Jesus cured; Jesus preached; Jesus prayed; Jesus extended compassion; Jesus cared. He is Emmanuel, very much with us in our situation of poverty.

The events in the public life of the Lord depict His mission of love and service to the world. Events, phases, stages, chapters of the current Filipino life story have a recognizable pattern and assume meaning in the light of faith, in the saga of maturing and committed Jesus. Filipinos will be participating in a National Day of Prayer and Fasting. Catholics can share the beauty and treasure that is the rosary. The rosary is a prayer for peace. For those living in situations of conflict, we offer prayers for authentic peace and pledge efforts of peacemaking and peace bridging.

Contemplating the face of Christ means seeing His challenge of the beatitudes He preached: to be a son or daughter of God requires works of peace and healing. "The Church is called to be deeply involved in international and inter-religious efforts to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation.

She continues to insist on the negotiated and non-military resolution to conflicts and she looks to the day when nations will abandon war as a way of vindicating claims or a means of resolving differences. She is convinced that war creates more problems than it ever solves, that dialogue is the only just and noble path to agreement and reconciliation, and that the patient and wise art of peacemaking is especially blessed by God." (Pope John Paul II, Church in Asia)

With war a distinct possibility, praying for peace is ever imperative. Solidarity is extended to Church members, Christians, suffering peoples living in countries where war exists, where senseless war would occur. The humanitarian dimension in case of war needs to be continually advocated. In the use of the latest of military gadgetry and state of the art military weaponry, in the awesome display of bombing might, people die, children die. Prayer is that humble fervent petition to God Almighty to prevent the madness, the sadness that is war.

The rosary is also a prayer of and for the family. It is most providential that the Philippines will host the Fourth World Meeting of Families. She has a pearl of faith that can be shared with Asia, with the rest of the world. Praying families become caring families. Families in prayer become families at peace. Prayer is key to love in the family.

Prayer offers the light triumphing over different shadows. The shadows in the family, which the *Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae* of Pope John Paul II mentions, are the increasing difficulty in communicating with one another, less frequency in coming together, difficulty of parents to follow the lives of their children as they mature, growing cultural distance among generations, and among children, the seductions of the drug culture, the lure of unbridled hedonism, temptation to violence and the manifold expressions of meaninglessness and despair. The rosary presents hope; the family that prays together stays together. The family that gathers around Christ becomes like that home in Nazareth.

It has been a good and wise custom of citing an intention as the mysteries of Christ are prayed. With these new mysteries of the light, we may go further and deeper into the sea of contemplation: *Duc in altum*! Our understanding of Jesus becomes more profound, our love for Him gains greater depth, and our gaze upon His face is a prelude to the beatific vision. We may include the papal intentions for the Church in Asia: Proclaiming Jesus the Saviour as Gift, Globalization in solidarity and without marginalization, preferential option for the poor, education and health care, foreign debt relief. In this sense, praying the rosary assumes a true social dimension when placed at the service of human promotion.

Pope John Paul II is a very Marian Pope and has always entrusted his papacy to the care of the Blessed Mother. On Oct. 22, he celebrated his 24th anniversary of the inauguration of the Petrine Office. Soon enough would be a momentous silver anniversary. This is the reason why from October 2002 to October 2003, the Church celebrates the Year of the Rosary. The Pope renews that love of Jesus always with Mary. May we follow this good example of loving our Lord like that of our Blessed Lady!

--Msgr. Hernando M. Coronel, *secretary general, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Hebron shooting kills 12 Israelis

HEBRON, West Bank—Palestinian militants raked Israeli troops and settlers with massive gunfire Friday in a carefully orchestrated ambush, killing 12 Israelis and wounding 15 in Hebron, a divided city long plagued by religious tensions and flashes of furious violence.

Three of the attackers were killed during the shooting, said Maj. Gen. Moshe Kaplinski, army commander responsible for the West Bank.

Hours later Israeli military helicopters fired missiles into Gaza City, hitting a metal workshop in a congested area, witnesses said. The army said it was used by Palestinian militants to manufacture weapons.

The Israelis were emerging from Sabbath prayers in the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine in downtown Hebron, and were walking back to the nearby settlement called Kiryat Arba when Palestinians fired assault rifles and hurled grenades from a building inside a Hebron neighborhood close by, Kaplinski told reporters in a briefing.

A nearby army post and solders rushing to the scene were also caught in the ambush, the sources said.

"There was gunfire from left and right, from every possible angle, they were shooting at us from above," one man, who gave his name only as Arik, told Army Radio. "The group of Jews were slaughtered."

Shooting from inside the densely populated area made it difficult for soldiers to locate the source of the gunfire, Kaplinski said.

Gun battles raged for more than 90 minutes, making it difficult for troops to reach the wounded. Flares lit up the night sky and military helicopters helped evacuate the wounded, including the regional brigade commander—a colonel—and members of his entourage.

Troops hunted for the gunmen, and TV reports said a gun battle erupted as soldiers surrounded a Palestinian home.

The militant Islamic Jihad group claimed responsibility, saying it was avenging the killing of its northern West Bank commander, Iyad Sawalha, by Israeli troops several days ago.

It was the deadliest attack on Israelis since Oct. 21 when 14 people were killed in a bus bombing in northern Israel.

In the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, dozens of Islamic Jihad supporters rushed into the streets in celebration, some firing in the air. "This is retaliation for the daily crimes and ugly massacres committed by the Zionist occupation against our people," one armed man said over loudspeaker. *AP*

AN INJURED Israel settler is taken to an ambulance at the Gush Ezion junction near the West Bank city of Hebron Nov. 15. REUTERS

US, British planes bomb Iraqi radar

WASHINGTON—In an action US officials consider a violation of a UN Security Council resolution, Iraq fired surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft guns at American and British warplanes patrolling a "no-fly" zone.

Coalition warplanes bombed an Iraqi air defense site in retaliation for Friday's firing, a Pentagon statement said.

It was the first coalition strike on Iraq since President Saddam Hussein's government accepted the Security Council resolution Wednesday that demanded he disarm and allow inspectors to search for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Under the resolution, a material breach must be reported to the Security Council for new debate and could be used as possible justification for US-led military action to remove Saddam's government.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government considers the firing a material breach, but could not say whether or when American officials would raise the issue with the United Nations.

State Department spokesperson Frederick Jones said the United States had the option of reporting the Iraqi firing to the Security Council but had not decided whether to do so.

In New York, meanwhile, chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix prepared to set off for Baghdad with a warning to Saddam that the Security Council won't tolerate "cat and mouse" games.

Blix and other inspectors are scheduled to arrive in Iraq on Monday after a four-year absence, and he said actual inspections were expected to begin Nov. 27.

Saddam's government told Iraqis on Friday they must welcome the inspection team.

The Bush administration says it will go to war if Saddam does not comply with the new UN resolution to cooperate in declaring and dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam accepted the UN resolution on Wednesday but insists Iraq has no chemical, biological and nuclear arms.

"Iraq's acceptance of the resolution is an attempt to save our people from any harm," the state-run Al-Iraq newspaper said Friday. "This is the most important thing." *AP*

Colombia bishop rescued by army

ZIPAQUIRA, Colombia—Held captive for four days by leftist rebels, one of Latin America's leading Roman Catholic clerics was freed by army troops in a gun battle and returned home to jubilant parishioners.

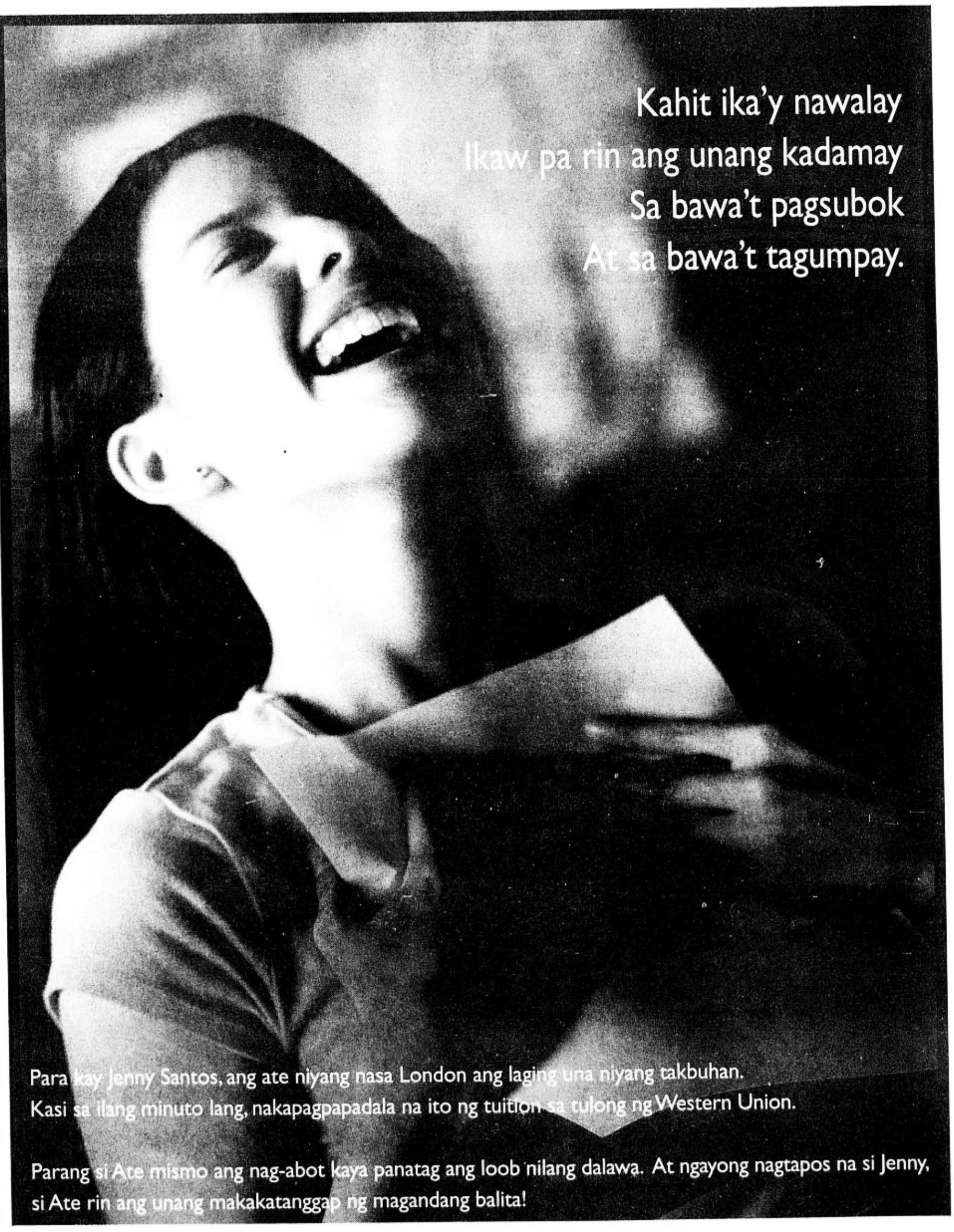
"Freedom lives!" chanted hundreds of faithful on Friday night as Bishop Jorge Enrique Jimenez came home to Zipaquira, a town 40 km north of the capital.

Jimenez and the Rev. Desiderio Orjuela were rescued hours earlier by Colombian army troops in a gun battle that left one rebel captor dead. Two were captured.

Jimenez is the president of the Latin American bishops conference, which determines Roman Catholic Church policy in the 22 nations of Latin America, home to nearly half the world's Catholics.

He and Orjuela were kidnapped Monday in the mountains of central Colombia by suspected rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Laughing with joy and his face covered with several days' white stubble, Jimenez was flown in a military helicopter to an army base in Bogota after being freed. *AP*



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Carter hits 'arrogant' US foreign policy

JIMMY Carter and Rosalynn Smith are pictured on their wedding day, July 7, 1946 file photograph. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—Former US president Jimmy Carter, this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner, Friday called US foreign policy "arrogant," saying the United States would do well to destroy its own weapons of mass destruction.

"One of the things that the United States government has not done is to try to comply with and enforce international efforts targeted to prohibit the arsenals of biological weapons that we ourselves have and others have," Carter said during a taping of Larry King Live, scheduled for broadcast later Friday on CNN.

He also called for more stringent efforts by Washington "to reduce and enforce the agreement to eliminate chemical weapons, and the same way with nuclear weapons."

"The major powers need to set an example," he said, as the United States confronts Iraq over its possession of these banned weapons.

Carter, is to receive the Nobel Peace Prize Dec. 10 for his efforts in seeking negotiated settlements to head off violent conflict.

Carter said the United States has given other nations reason for resentment.

"There is a sense that the United States has become too arrogant, too dominant, too self-centered, proud of our wealth, believing that we deserve to be the richest and most powerful and influential nation in the world," the 78-year-old Carter said.

US interests, too often based on oil or other resources, ignore many truly poor countries, while the United States is the stingiest contributor of foreign aid, he said. He also noted that the United States gives only one one-thousandth of its gross national product for international assistance, while the average European country gives four times as much.

"For every time an American gives a dollar, a citizen of Norway gives 17 dollars," he said.

"Foreign aid in this country has a bad name, but in other countries, it's a right thing for the government to do. And that's where we at the Carter Center quite often have to turn," the former president said, referring to the Atlanta-based Carter Center he founded some 20 years ago, and which now operates humanitarian projects in 65 countries.

"Quite often the big countries that are responsible for the peace of the world set a very poor example for those who might hunger for the esteem or the power or the threats that they can develop from nuclear weapons themselves. *AFP*

UK Catholic Church speaks out vs Iraq war

LONDON—The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales urged world leaders Friday to step back from the brink of war on Iraq, warning it would cause the deaths of thousands of civilians.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor said Iraq could be reintegrated into the international community if it genuinely disarmed and if sanctions against it were lifted.

Military action was the "last resort," the cardinal said, adding: "War is a route from which there is no return."

His comments came in a statement read out at the end of a Catholic bishops' conference in Leeds, northern England.

The Roman Catholic church has nine million followers in Britain, making it the biggest religious group in the country after the Anglican church with 27 million.

"The need to avoid war is a cornerstone of Christian teaching," Cardinal O'Connor said.

"The United Kingdom and the United States are currently preparing to send their armed forces into war. If there is war, as well as military casualties on both sides thousands of Iraqi civilians will die," he said.

"It is our moral responsibility to avoid this war unless, in the face of a grave and imminent threat, there is no other possible means to achieve the just end of disarming Iraq."

The bishops' conference urged the international community to pursue alternatives to conflict before it was too late.

Sanctions against Iraq "have not worked," said the cardinal. "They have imposed a decade of misery on ordinary people whilst allowing an exploitative regime to sustain itself in power."

"It is time to find a policy that offers Iraq a positive incentive to comply with the demands of the (UN) Security Council." *AFP*

LA judge blocks citizen law for airport screeners

LOS ANGELES—A federal judge in Los Angeles on Friday blocked enforcement of a law that requires airport screeners to be US citizens until the government proves that it is the "least restrictive means" to insure national security.

US District Judge Robert Takasugi refused the US Justice Department's request that he throw out the lawsuit by nine non-citizen screeners at Los Angeles and San Francisco international airport who say the post-Sept. 11 rule is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit contends that no such regulation exists for flight attendants, airline pilots, baggage handlers or National Guard troops, who also have access to secure areas.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represents the screeners, compared the government's attempts to purge non-citizens from the now-federally controlled jobs to US internment of Japanese-Americans in World War II.

"That's the same kind of mentality, that non-citizens are somehow dangerous," Mark Rosenbaum, ACLU legal director, said.

An estimated 25 percent of the nation's 28,000 baggage and passenger screeners were naturalized citizens or resident aliens when the lawsuit was filed in January, according to the Los Angeles Times.

ACLU attorneys said about 80 percent of the San Francisco International Airport's screeners were non-citizens, as were about 40 percent of LAX screeners.

Seven of the plaintiffs work at the Los Angeles and San Francisco airports and say they will lose their jobs when the government takes over hiring on Tuesday.

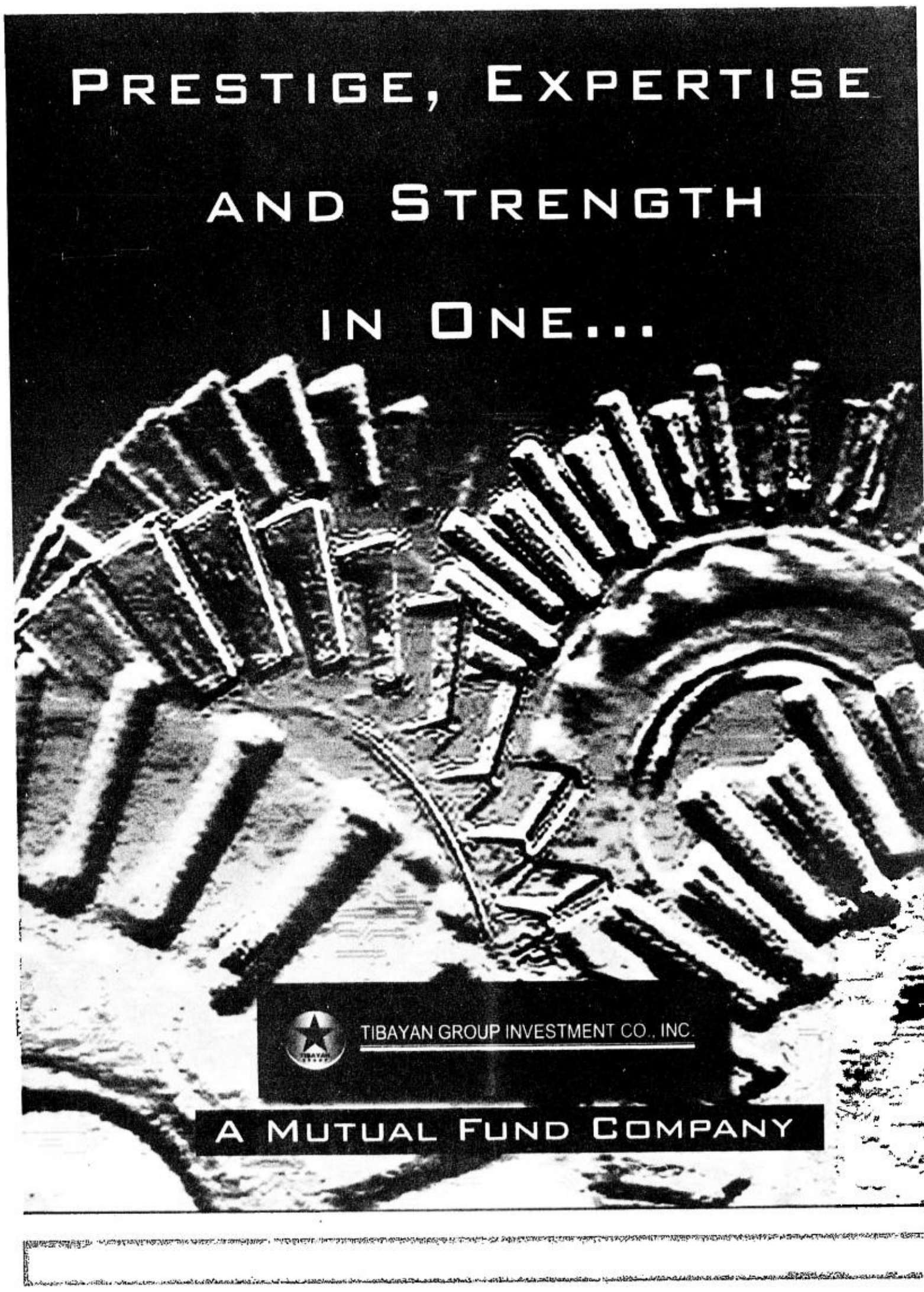
Two others were LAX screeners but lost their jobs after the suit was filed, attorneys said.

The screeners want US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta to rescind the measure—part of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act—adopted by Congress a year ago in response to the Sept. 11 hijacking attacks in New York and Washington DC.

The Justice Department's attorneys pointed out that a federal appeals court already has upheld a citizenship requirement for federal employees.

In a written ruling, Takasugi noted that a temporary injunction "would merely delay implementation of a new statute," while allowing the plaintiffs to lose their jobs would cause them "irreparable harm."

Justice Department attorney Elizabeth Shapiro said the effect of the judge's order was unclear because LAX is already under federal control while the San Francisco airport is not. *Reuters*



Saddam to pay Libya $3.5B to hide family, says report

LONDON—Iraqi President Saddam Hussein plans to pay Libya billions of dollars to secure political asylum for his family and senior members of the Baghdad regime in the event of a war with the West, The Times newspaper reported Saturday.

The deal, which would also cover an internal coup d'etat, would see the Iraqi leader pay $3.5 billion into Libyan banks for the safe haven of his family and around a dozen senior officials of the Baghdad regime and their families, the paper said.

The deal does not include plans to provide refuge to Saddam or his eldest son, Uday, according to The Times, which said it learned from diplomatic sources in Tripoli that the Iraqi leader's secret emissaries visited Libya and Syria to discuss an escape route.

The Times said any deal to provide refuge to Saddam or Uday would lead to Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi coming under intense international pressure to hand them over for war crimes trials.

According to the diplomatic sources in Tripoli, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, Foreign Minister Naji Sabri and deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, would be among senior Baghdad figures to be granted refuge by Libya.

The Times said details of the deal emerged following a visit to Tripoli on Sept. 8 by General Ali Hasan al-Majid—who according to the paper is a cousin and trusted member of Saddam's clan.

An overland escape route was devised during a visit by senior Iraqi officials to Damascus in October, The Times added.

It would involve those seeking asylum travelling from Tikrit, home of the Saddam clan, to the Syrian border via the Badyat al-Sham desert dividing Syria from Iraq. *AFP*

Book says CIA paid millions for Afghan warlords' support

WASHINGTON—A new book says US President George W. Bush's advisers had grave doubts about the early course of the war in Afghanistan and suggests that the ultimate defeat of the Taliban was due largely to millions of dollars in hundred-dollar bills the CIA handed out to Afghan warlords to win their support.

"Bush at War," by Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward, draws on four hours of interviews with Bush and quotes 15,000 words from National Security Council and other White House meetings in reconstructing the internal debate that led to US military action in Afghanistan and the decision to aggressively confront Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The book describes Secretary of State Colin Powell as frequently at odds with Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and struggling to establish a relationship with Bush.

The book reports that Bush advisers had deep doubts about their strategy of bombing the Taliban while relying on ground forces from the Northern Alliance.

The CIA spent $70 million in direct cash outlays on the ground in Afghanistan, a figure that includes money for setting up field hospitals.

In the interview in August at the president's ranch in Crawford, Texas, Bush was reflective about his personal style and ambitions as president, the book says. "Sometimes, that's the way I am—fiery," he said, describing his relationship with his aides, and adding: "I can be an impatient person."

In the interview, Bush also spoke about North Korea and its dictator Kim Jong Il.

With the administration contemplating a response to North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Bush shouted and waved his finger in the air, saying, "I loathe Kim Jong Il."

Bush said during a February visit to the North Korean border that he had no intention of invading North Korea, but made it clear in the interview with Woodward he is not content with the status quo.

The book portrays Powell as being frustrated with having to pretend that there was a policy consensus within the war cabinet on Iraq and the Middle East. He called it being "in the icebox" during periods when the White House banned him from television. *AP*

Purported ossuary of Jesus' brother yields discoveries

MONTREAL—The 2,000 year-old limestone burial box that may have contained the bones of James, brother of Jesus of Nazareth, may have been used once before, officials of the Royal Ontario Museum said Friday.

The ossuary carries an inscription in Aramaic reading, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus" and dates from around AD 63, according to French paleographer Andre Lemaire, whose discovery made headlines worldwide last month.

While repairing damage to the box incurred in shipment from Israel to Canada, the museum's cu rator, Edward Kealle said he found two faintly incised designs of circles, and star points in the circles.

This could mean that the inscription was incised on an ossuary that had already been used once before, perhaps from the prior century, Keall said in a statement published on the museum's web site.

Keall also saw minute traces of paint on the back of the box, which could mean that the box would have been reversed with today's back once serving as the front. The paint would have spelled out the name of the person buried before James, logically another member of Jesus's family.

If, as some scholars maintain, the box and the inscription are authentic, it would be the oldest physical evidence of the existence of Jesus of Nazareth.

Until around AD 70 when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed, ancient Jews routinely transferred the bones of their deceased from burial caves to ossuaries, Lemaire wrote in the Biblical Archaeology Review last month.

Although all three of the men's names written on the box were in common use in ancient times, their combination is a statistical rarity and the mention of the dead person's brother is unusual, suggesting that this Jesus was a well-known figure, paleographer Lemaire noted.

The James ossuary, which is about 20 inches long, is scheduled to go on display at the Royal Ontario Museum from Nov. 16 to Dec. 29.

The choice of Toronto as the first venue to exhibit the ossuary was scheduled to coincide with the biblical archaeology group's annual conference here. *AFP*

FBI warning spurs US to take extra precautions

WASHINGTON—The White House said Friday that officials were taking "additional precautions," after the FBI warned that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network might launch "spectacular attacks" in the United States.

"We are taking additional precautions to meet the threats," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said. "While we are not raising the threat level, we are taking additional precautions."

President George W. Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, echoed the White House's message, noting that "a lot is being done to bring additional protective measures, particularly to critical infrastructure locations around the United States."

Officials are also "raising protective measures in a number of places around the country," Rice added.

A US official separately announced Friday that a senior al-Qaida member has been captured, but gave virtually no details.

"I can't tell you when, I can't tell you where, I can't tell you how," said the official, who declined to be named.

It was unclear if the capture had anything to do with the additional precautions.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said in a bulletin issued to law enforcement personnel late Thursday and posted on the Internet Friday that "in selecting its next targets, sources suggest al-Qaida may favor spectacular attacks that meet several criteria: high symbolic value, mass casualties, severe damage to the US economy and maximum psychological trauma."

"The highest-priority targets remain within the aviation, petroleum and nuclear sectors, as well as significant national landmarks," it added.

The bulletin came just three days after Qatar's satellite television network Al-Jazeera aired an audiotape in which the speaker—purported to be Bin Laden—talks of Iraq's suffering and praises recent attacks in the Middle East, Russia and Southeast Asia aimed at the United States and its allies.

"Based on the release of the audiotape, intelligence reporting, a resurgence of al-Qaida operational activity and what is known about al-Qaida's modus operandi, the NIPC (National Infrastructure Protection Center) is notifying Information Bulletin recipients of possible attacks in the United States," the FBI division said.

The FBI said sources have also suggested that attacks on "soft targets"—like the nightclub bombing that killed more than 190 people in Bali on Oct. 12—"would be easier for sleeper cells already in the US to carry out and would minimize the need to communicate with central leadership, lowering the risks of detection."

It hypothesized that al-Qaida's next strike may involve truck bombs, aircraft, small watercraft or conventional explosives that are easy to conceal.

Officials cautioned, however, that the bulletin did not constitute a new warning.

"The warnings that have gone out recently really are a summary of intelligence, not a new warning," Rice said, adding: "This is a summary of intelligence as we know it."

FBI spokesperson Debbie Weierman, for her part, said the bulletin was intended merely as "a re-emphasis to our law enforcement community to remain vigilant." *AFP*

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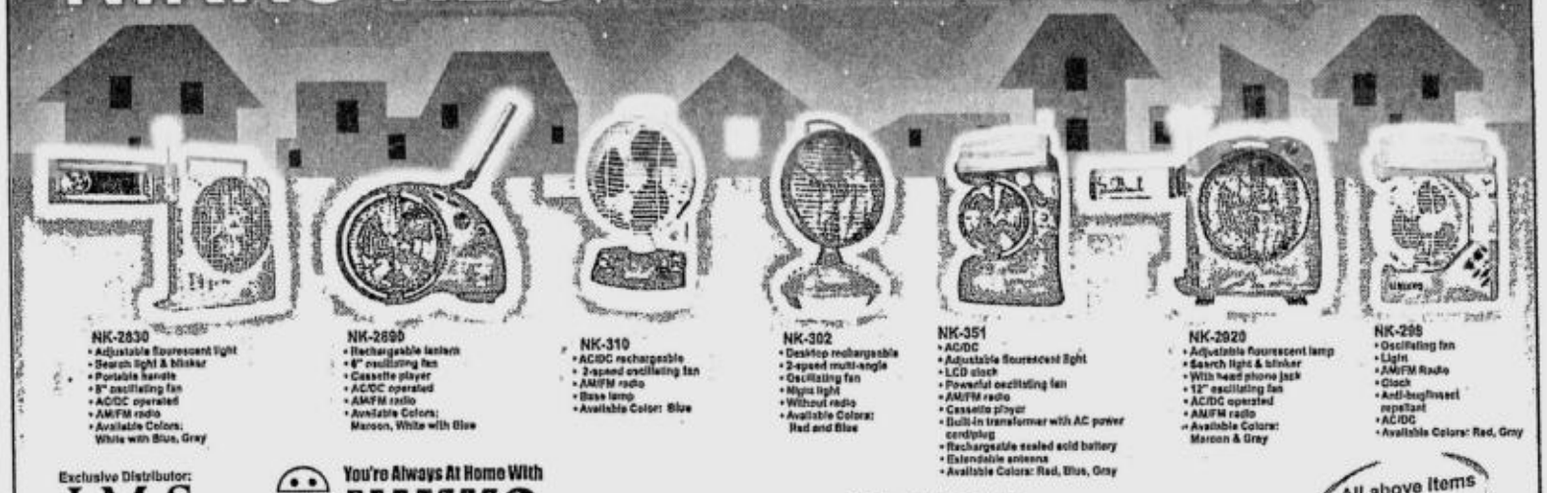

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GMA gets flak over short-termed AFP chiefs

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Members of Philippine Military Academy Class 1972 on Saturday described President Macapagal-Arroyo's "revolving door" policy of appointing short-termed chiefs of staff as similar to that adopted by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos that ignited the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

Cashiered Col. Billy Bibit, a customs collector assigned in Cebu City, said members of PMA Class 1972 were victims of Marcos' decision to suppress the promotions of junior officers by extending the terms of their superior officers during the Martial law regime.

Bibit said the policy forced junior officers to launch the 1986 coup, which sparked the People Power movement and expelled Marcos in a bloodless revolution.

Bibit was a key leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) who participated in the 1986 Edsa Revolt. He was later jailed for helping launch several other coup attempts against former President Corazon Aquino.

"In 1986, we (experienced) the exercise called a coup (because) Marcos continued to extend the appointments of military officers (at the expense of) the junior officers," he said.

Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., also a member of the class, said the active officers of Class 1972 again confronted the same specter of delayed promotions under Ms Macapagal's policy of appointing military leaders, who were retiring.

Bibit said the class has four generals who could vie for chief of staff in the coming years.

"We have many more years ahead of us (in this bureaucracy)," he said.

Espino said Malacañang's "revolving door" policy should change soon. "Many of (my classmates) are not being promoted because of the extensions. They should give the (new blood) a fresh start at leading the military," he said.

Ms Macapagal appointed Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, a member of PMA Class 1970, as the new Armed Forces chief of staff upon the retirement on Nov. 18 of Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

Defensor, who was appointed on Sept. 4, served as chief of staff for only three months. Ms Macapagal had scheduled the turnover rites on Nov. 28.

Defensor's predecessor, Gen. Roy Cimatu, served for only four months.

Santiago is retiring in April next year.

Bibit, however, said Ms Macapagal's policy has not yet affected the whole military structure.

"Maybe we can ask for a (comprehensive) selection process, but that may instead lead to a process that would bypass many more officers. Maybe what (the President) is doing is not all that bad," he said.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent and Class 1972 president, said the class' active officers are still duty bound to follow Ms Macapagal's decisions. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

P1.2B alloted for soldiers' training

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The US government has allotted $25 million for the training of Filipino troops which will start in February, according to Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

"That was supposed to be $55 million but the supplemental $30 million was scrapped and we have $25 million budget for combating terrorism through enhanced training of our soldiers," Abaya told the INQUIRER.

With the budget, Abaya said, there would be no need to bring in US military warfare materials such as communication facilities or aircraft.

"We can use our UH1H (Huey). The only thing we need is night vision goggles for the pilots for the night flying training in Benito Ebuen Airbase in Mactan, Cebu City," Abaya said.

The US trainors are still scouting for an ideal place for the training, he revealed. Camp Enrile in Barangay Malagutay where the US troops during the Balikatan Exercise 02-1 established a training center, might not be enough for the training of four companies of the Light Infantry Battalion, he added.

On Monday, Abaya said the training will focus on one objective: "to fight global terrorism."

In Davao City, Indonesian vice consul Johannes Manginsela lamented the labeling of Indonesia as a so-called "weakest link" in the global campaign against terrorism.

Manginsela told the INQUIRER that Indonesia had been perceived by several countries as soft in the handling of the US-led anti-terrorism war.

He said apparently, the connotation stemmed from the handling of Indonesian authorities in the resolution of the Oct. 12 Bali bombing incident where nearly 200 people died.

Manginsela said the Indonesian government is bent on curbing terrorism on all fronts. "But we want to combat terrorism in a democratic way," he said. *Julie S. Alipala and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Church has remained stagnant, says CBCP's Bishop Quevedo

By Lino K. Parone Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—What's the difference between groups like couples for Christ, Elim, El Shaddai, Mother Butler Mission Guilds, or the Charismatic Movement, and the Church-organized basic ecclesial communities or BECs?

A top-ranking Church official said "loyalty to the Church."

The Church, he said, faces a big problem, "when these religious organizations develop loyalty to their leaders and founders stronger than their loyalty to the Church."

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president, on Thursday publicly admitted that there is friction between "traditional or mandated religious movements or organizations" and the current church structures.

Other church officials admitted some priests simply do not want some of these groups based in their parishes "due to their insistence on undertaking activities without consultation with parish priests."

"They do it on their own," Jaro, Iloilo Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, for his part, said in Ilongo.

CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo demonstrates the practices of poor people in the mountains, such as eating with one of their legs up, which Church officials should be sensitive about if they want to be successful in evangelizing them. ROTHER VILVESTRE

Frictions

Quevedo called on other bishops in the Philippines to smoothen out these frictions "by re-orienting such groups towards coordination and integration of their activities with that of the thrust of their respective diocese."

Calling them "transparochial communities," Quevedo said, these groups were already everywhere in Manila and Luzon 10 years ago when the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP-2) was convened. "These groups may have different objectives, and they may have different structures from that of the BECs," he said.

Quevedo was keynote speaker during the First National Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) Assembly at the Holy Family Retreat House in Cebu City.

Quevedo said predicting the future of the Church in the Philippines, with the BEC's role in mind, is made more difficult by the fact that "it has remained, in many dimensions of Church life, dormant."

"It's sad, frustrating and exasperating," Quevedo said.

"I will not predict the Church's future, I will simply dream with you," he told some 200 delegates composed of bishops, priests, religious sisters and lay men and women from 51 dioceses all over the country.

The National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal (NPC-CR), Quevedo said, has reported that the Church in the Philippines has remained unchanged in some aspects.

Many decrees remained unimplemented. There is also a lack of defined diocesan pastoral direction and program.

PCP-2

As part of the renewal efforts espoused by the PCP-2, Quevedo asked the bishops to define a thrust which their diocese can adopt, and involve the traditional groups.

Even without Quevedo's mentioning these groups as partly the cause of the "stagnancy in the life of the current Church," some delegates who asked not to be named admitted that in their respective diocese, frictions and squabbles involving these groups have contributed to the bigger problem.

Quevedo cautioned, though, that there is no perfect way of undertaking a BEC, that what makes it better is the participatory aspect of the movement.

The BEC is a group of between 10 and 15 families located in a neighborhood accessible to each other. They focus on faith sharing, deeper fellowship, involvement and cooperation on socio-economic-political issues.

Survey

According to a survey by the Bukal ng Tipan, a mission spirituality center that organized the assembly, 71 percent of the 77 dioceses in the country have BECs since the 1970s.

Among the BEC activities being immersed in by their members, "religious activities registered the highest rate."

Rose Katalbas, a Bukal ng Tipan business staffer said it is part of the BEC leadership to increase the involvement of members in socio-economic and political issues.

The same survey result showed liturgy and formation are the favorite activities by BECs in the country, with 82 and 79 percent, respectively.

Economic and socio-politics registered the lowest, with 39 and 36 percent, respectively. Other activities include praying of the Rosary, Bible reading and sharing, neighborhood fellowship, and parish involvement.

The BECs, Quevedo said, had been around for many years but admitted the Vatican was lukewarm in its support for the movement.

"The Popes had been cautious about BECs because of the ideological problems in South America," he said.

"They always put this thing about 'as long as they are in communion with the magisterium and the hierarchy' . . . that kind of language," Quevedo said adding that the PCP-2 went beyond that.

Quevedo said the vision of a changed Catholic Church in the Philippines has remained a vision, with many of its promised objectives far from being realized.

ARMM budget slash to force officials to beg

COTABATO CITY—Officials of the impoverished Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will spend most of their time begging from international donors next year if they want the area to develop and be at par with the more progressive regions in the country.

This was hinted by ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin after Congress cut by 50 percent the region's proposed budget of P10.4 billion.

"What can we do with P5.4 billion budget when about 86 percent of this amount will go to personal services or salaries of employees," explained Hussin with the suggestion to lead a group of ARMM officials who will solicit for cash and material assistance from affluent countries starting next year.

Hussin noted that the budget cut was enormous despite the entry of Basilan and Marawi City into the originally four-province ARMM.

"We have so many problems to attend to, like the maintenance of law and order, livelihood and resettlement of Filipino refugees from Malaysia, infrastructure and many others. And yet, we have to contend with a very limited budget," Hussin's executive secretary Nabil Tan said.

Tan agreed that the only way to offset the lack of government funds in the ARMM, is to launch a solicitation campaign for financial support from Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and the US.

Hussin said he knew the task of having to beg "will be difficult, but we will do our best with whatever is available."

The ARMM will send solicitation letters to prospective donor states indicating specific infrastructure projects or socio-economic programs that they would be funding.

"We know very well that we are totally dependent on outside assistance," Hussin said.

At the same time, he urged the 24-member Regional Legislative Assembly to help spur economic growth by having to approve a bill creating the Regional Economic Zone Authority (REZA).

He said the proposed bill was unanimously endorsed by some 500 trade leaders, who attended the ARMM Business Congress held here in July. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-Inquirer correspondent finalist in awards for environment

BAGUIO CITY—A former INQUIRER correspondent is one of the six finalists in the Reuters-IUCN (The World Conservation Union) media awards in Washington D.C. on Dec. 3.

Imelda Visaya Abaño, 25, a freelance journalist, was selected as the regional winner for Asia for her story "Planting rice is never fun."

The story, which focused on the conservation of the Ifugao rice terraces, appeared in the February 2002 issue of the Philippine Post Magazine, a Filipino newsmagazine circulated in California.

Established three years ago with the Reuters Foundation, the awards aim to help raise global awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues by encouraging high standards in environmental reporting worldwide.

Abaño will join the regional winners from English-speaking Africa and the Middle East, Europe, French-speaking Africa, Latin America, North America and Oceania.

The six regional winners were selected from 152 participants from 56 countries.

A global winner will be chosen from the six regional winners on Dec. 3 by a jury composed of Queen Noor of Jordan; Stephen Jukes, Reuters head of news; Yolanda Kakabadse Navarro, IUCN president; Mohammad Vali Moosa, South African minister of environmental affairs and tourism; and Tumi Makgabo, anchor of CNN Inside Africa.

The winner will receive $5,000. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Fire hits Bohol tourist strip

PANGLAO, Bohol—Fire of still undetermined origin hit a popular tourist strip in Barangay Danao of this town Wednesday midnight, gobbling up at least P10.8 million worth of properties in five resort establishments.

The fire first broke out at the Swiss Bamboo House Dive Spot along the popular Alona Beach, a kilometer-long beach strip in Barangay Danao, the Panglao police said.

Since Panglao has no fire truck of its own, policemen on duty promptly responded by alerting the Tagbilaran police station, about 26 km away, and other fire stations in neighboring towns.

By the time the fire fighters arrived on the scene however, the fire had spread to the nearby establishments. No one was reported injured.

The Panglao police said the Swiss Bamboo House Dive Spot reported damages of $100,000 for diving equipment, personal and private belongings and P75,000 for the renovation of the building.

This did not include the cost of the building occupied by the resort's owner who was not named in the blotter. *Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Capiz folk hit alleged soldiers' abuses

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAPAZ, Capiz—Residents of hinterland barangays in Capiz are decrying alleged abuses of soldiers in military operations against communist rebels.

In an investigation of the Capiz provincial board Wednesday, the Capiceños including members of Panay's indigenous group Tumandok, narrated a litany of complaints against members of the Army's Task Force Panay.

They confirmed an earlier report of human rights groups detailing the alleged abuses. The complaints include threats against residents, destruction of crops during military operations, forced recruitment of government militias and enforcement of a curfew.

They said soldiers are pushing the people to put detachments of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgu) even if the arming of residents will "destroy" their lives.

"We are farmers who are preoccupied with our carabaos and pieces of land. We do not need guns . . . ," said Sinunod village chief Noe Tupas in the dialect.

The investigation, held at the hinterland barangay of Acuna, some 15 kilometers from the town proper, was attended by around 200 residents and village officials of at least eight barangays, many of whom walked for more than six hours to reach the venue of the session.

It was prompted by a report of Task Force Tapaz that conducted a fact-finding mission on Oct. 7-11 on the alleged human rights violations. The group is a network of human rights organizations led by Karapatan and advocates of the Tumandok community.

Aileen Catamin, barangay captain of Tacayan, said residents of her village are frightened and could not go on with their farming because of the presence of soldiers in their barangay. "We do not need them (soldiers and Cafgus) because the barangay officials and volunteer watchmen can protect our barangay."

Antonio Victor, a resident of Barangay Sinunod, said he lost around 10 sacks of palay after around 60 soldiers trampled on his farmland during night operations. "Until now, they did not pay for the damage."

Residents of Daan Sur, which has the concentration of soldiers in the area, also testified that soldiers ringed houses and trails with grenades during the night apparently against rebel attacks.

"We fear that these (grenades) might explode because many of us are unaware of these traps," said Jonathan Belo.

Celsa Gicalao, a rebel returnee, said soldiers are threatening her and her husband on suspicion that they are still aiding the rebels. "How can I be still be an NPA member when I can't even take care of my seven children?"

"I don't know what to do. I have returned to the fold of the law but they are still after me," she said.

Col. Oscar Lasangue, spokesperson of Task Force Panay, dismissed the testimonies as "black propaganda" and "fabrications of front organizations" of the rebels.

"They want the soldiers to pull out from the barangays so the NPA could come in," he said in a telephone interview.

But Vice Gov. Victor Tanco Sr. said they would ask the comment and reaction of Army officials on the complaints of the people.

"What is mentioned in the report (of Task Force Tapaz) appears to be true because the people (mentioned in the report) personally testified and confirmed the report," Tanco told the INQUIRER after the meeting.

"Now we know that the report is backed by the residents and the barangay officials and not just of Task Force Tapaz," added Board member Cezar Talabucon , chair of the committee on peace and order and police matters.

He said the board would first deliberate on the testimonies of the residents and the reaction of the military before coming out with a specific action.

Endangered species now banned in gov't planes

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Transportation of endangered species using government aircraft is now prohibited in Palawan.

Newly-installed 570th Composite Tactical Wing Commander Col. Edwin Galzote recently issued a policy prohibiting the boarding of all endangered species in any military aircraft from Palawan in support of RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act).

While commercial planes and ships are closely monitored by government agencies, military aircrafts and ships used to enjoy leniency. This gives a chance for some military personnel and their families to transport endangered animals.

Some even make a living out of it by selling these animals to pet shops in Metro Manila.

With the recent policy, keeping of endangered species as pets, inside the camp, is also prohibited.

Any military personnel caught violating the order will face dismissal and a criminal case for violating RA 9147.

The policy was issued after a dialogue between Galzote and DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Rey Crisostomo.

In the meeting, the DENR official said while they can monitor all possible exit points for endangered species from Palawan, they cannot inspect Philippine Air Force's aircrafts. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BERROYA ASSESSMENT

Security agencies need reforms

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Business is brisk for the Philippines' more than 1,600 private security agencies.

But even as they enjoy an increase of about 15 percent in the number of clients because of threats of terrorism, the industry, which counts some 300,000 guards nationwide, is headed for major reforms.

"We are several slots behind other Asean countries. We hope to cope with the demands of the time," said Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Philippine National Police's Civil Security Group. The CSG regulates the private security industry in the country.

Berroya was referring to the quality of training and level of competence of security guards, which the PNP calls the "multiplier force in law enforcement."

Berroya said the training standards vary and many agencies do not strictly comply with the existing standards.

Most of these agencies are owned, managed or operated by retired military or police officials and college graduates, as required by Republic Act 5487. This law governs the organization and management of private security agencies, company guard forces and government security forces.

Berroya said the use of fictitious documents by applicants, with a minimum qualification of at least a high school education, raises questions on aptitude and honesty.

He did not say how rampant the illegal practice was but noted the need to review the qualifications of those already on the job.

He said unlicensed firearms are also used in the security industry, indicating the need for a strict gun control.

Last week, Berroya said the CSG seized 16 unlicensed firearms from guards employed in companies along the North Luzon Expressway.

"We really need to review licenses and the compliance of security agencies (to requirements and standards of conduct and skills)," he said.

Romeo Yusi, past president of the Philippine Association of Detective and Protective Agency Operators (Padpao), assured that local operators had been very strict about securing licenses for firearms.

Senior Insp. Braulio Pascua of the PNP's regional Security Agencies and Guards Supervisory Department said 40 percent of more than 18,000 security guards in Central Luzon are "untrained."

This meant that they have not undergone the PNP's 45-day intensive course, which includes firing, basic investigation and intelligence gathering, he said.

The list is being reviewed to remove guards hired on the basis of a fake high school diploma, he added. More than 3,000 guards have joined the workforce since last year.

"The more threats there are, the more guards are needed," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

New country club officers

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio Country Club retained its officers during a stockholders' meeting last Wednesday. Lawyer Federico Agcaoili remains as BCC president and Sylvia Ilusorio as executive committee chair. Lawyer Rodolfo Albano is BCC board chair; lawyer Victoria de los Reyes, corporate secretary; and Ernesto Sanchez, treasurer. Anthony de Leon, BCC manager, said the recent renovation of the club cost P410.65 million. De Leon said the BCC will build six log cabins along Outlook Drive as part of BCC's expansion. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bribe for drug pusher

OLONGAPO CITY—A village leader here was arrested on charges of bribing police officials in exchange for the release of a suspected drug pusher. Police said Ernesto Guira, purok (district) leader of Barangay Pag-asa here, allegedly offered P10,000 to policemen in exchange for the freedom of Dafroso Baful, his cousin, who was arrested in a buy-bust operation in the city. Police said while they were questioning Baful in a police station here when Guira arrived and offered the money. The bribe offer was recorded through a video camera used in documenting the investigation, police said. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

New Pangasinan road

DAGUPAN CITY—Former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. on Monday opened a road in Pangasinan that would cut travel time to and from Baguio City. The road passes through the eastern Pangasinan towns of Rosales, Sta. Maria, Asingan and Binalonan and would skip the usual route passing through Urdaneta City. Ramos, who initiated the project, said the road would help farmers in Pangasinan's eastern towns by providing them with an efficient and faster means to gain access to their markets. *Yolanda Sotelo Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Drug pushers held

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—Police arrested three suspected drug pushers after a car chase along the national highway in Barangay Bascaran here on Wednesday. Police identified the suspects as Danilo Tugawin, Christopher Peralta and Thelma Vergara, all residents of this town. Recovered from them were sachets containing 36 grams of shabu. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Kidnapping suspect held

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A suspect in the kidnapping of a businesswoman two years ago was arrested in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay on Thursday morning. Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, police chief for Western Mindanao, identified the suspect as Ismael Gani, allegedly one of the seven kidnappers of Juanita Lee. Lee, a resident of Barangay Tetuan here, was kidnapped on Jan. 10, 2000. She was released five months later. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Firearms seized

COTABATO CITY—Police operatives on Thursday night confiscated assorted firearms from a village chair of Maguindanao and his two escorts. Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, police station 4 chief, said Jabar Sinsuat, chair of Barangay Romangcob and president of South Upi Liga ng mga Barangay, failed to present mission orders for carrying high-powered firearms at a police checkpoint in Barangay Bagua here. Police confiscated a Galil rifle, an Armalite rifle and a .45 cal. pistol from Sinsuat and from his escorts identified as Army Sgt. Reynaldo Crisologo of 64th Infantry Battalion and PO3 Isidro Cabaylo of South Upi PNP. "They have military receipt but could not present mission orders," Obatay said. The three were later released pending investigation but their rifles were turned over to the Police central headquarters in PC Hill here. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 soldiers wounded

DAVAO CITY—Four soldiers were wounded in an encounter with communist rebels Wednesday morning in Kapalong town, Davao del Norte. Belated reports reaching the regional police office here said the clash took place at around 8:15 a.m. when elements of the Army's 72nd Infantry Battalion, who were conducting clearing operations in Sitio Tugop in Barangay Gupitan, clashed with New People's Army rebels. A 10-minute gunfight ensued, leaving four soldiers wounded. The report did not identify the wounded soldiers. It was learned that NPA rebels had been staying in the area for about four days as they were waiting for their food supply. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Davao penal farm: Prison of the future

By Carlos R. Munda Jr.
Contributor

INMATES wait in line to re-enter the prison barracks after a day working at the Dapecol plantation. CARLOS MUNDA JR.

THE DAVAO Prison and Penal Farm (better known as the former Davao Penal Colony or Dapecol), a sprawling 5,000-hectare prison facility operated by the Bureau of Corrections in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, is where prisoners are sent as punishment, not for punishment.

Entering the DPPF, one is not likely to think of a prison. Its broad tree-lined main avenue is bordered with the homes of correctional workers, *sari-sari* (retail) stores, and office buildings. Beyond, on the prison grounds, are a tennis court, a basketball court, a chapel and a well-tended park. In fact, the whole place has the look and feel of a plaza and if not for the occasional barbed-wire fences seen at a distance and the inmates in prison garb walking singly or in pairs, one would be excused for forgetting this was a prison.

To a visitor, the DPPF's clean and pleasant environment is one of its most striking features. Or at least it is one of its most obvious difference from the normal impression people have of prisons. If popular culture, as seen in movies like "Midnight Express," "Brokedown Palace" and "Judge Dredd" is anything to go by, then we can safely say that people expect prisons to be nothing short of hell on earth; places where inmates are jammed together tighter than sardines in a can.

"Most people think that prisons are little more than cages and the inmates no better than animals," says Supt. Venjo Tesoro, DPPF warden.

Misconceptions

He adds that "these misconceptions create a climate of fear and distrust" between the public and the convict community that prevents the effective re-entry of rehabilitated inmates back into free society.

It was precisely because of this problem that the bureau, under the directorship of Ricardo Macala, started a program that places emphasis on rehabilitative, rather than retributive justice. Under the slogan, *"Bilangguan ma'y paraiso sa patakarang maka-Diyos at makatao* (Even prison is paradise under a pro-God and pro-people rule)," Macala has initiated wide-sweeping reforms aimed at dragging Philippine penology from the shadows of the dark ages into the light of the 21st century.

"There is a lot of literature attesting to the efficacy and humanity of this treatment," Tesoro said. "As caretakers of the inmates, we have to believe in their capacity to change their behavior and we have the responsibility to insure that inmates are returned to society no more angry or hostile as the day they were committed."

Toward this end, the DPPF has initiated many groundbreaking programs in the area of re-educating and re-tooling the inmates for a more productive life after serving their time. But more than just the physical differences with other prison facilities, the DPPF's efforts to help improve the lives of the inmates go as far as providing opportunities for education and employment, even during incarceration.

Recently, a classroom was built where inmates from the minimum and medium security compound are taught everything—from basic reading to carpentry, wood carving, barbering, basic appliance repair, plumbing and other skills that would serve them in good stead in the future.

The library was also re-stocked with new books and reference materials to help the prisoners gain a wider appreciation of the importance of education.

Through such programs, amenities and services, the DPPF is attempting to rehabilitate the inmates by normalizing the prison environment to the extent possible.

"They say that practice makes perfect. Therefore, if we want to teach convicts how to act responsibly in society, then we must allow them to live as freely as the law allows," Tesoro said.

Economic gains

Aside from the benefits to the inmates, the program has "economic benefits" for the prison. According to Tesoro, since the program is being undertaken with the help of private sector partners, the DPPF has been able to augment the budget it receives from the national government, which, in turn, goes to the improvement of the prison facilities and services.

One such partnership, formed during the late 1960s, was the one established with the Tagum Agricultural Development Co. (Tadeco). During its early years, the Dapecol-Tadeco joint venture agreement was even hailed by then Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. as a model of private sector and government interaction. Today, this partnership has helped ease some of the burdens of inmate rehabilitation.

"We have been the beneficiary of medical outreach programs, education projects for the inmates and other assistance packages from Tadeco," Tesoro said.

Recently, the Antonio O. Floirendo, Sr. Foundation donated P450,000 worth of medicines for the inmates, as well as new books for the prison library. The foundation also conducts regular skills training seminars, in coordination with Tesda (Technical Education Skills and Development Authority), for the benefit of the prisoners.

Also, through the joint venture agreement with Tadeco, prisoners are allowed to work directly in the banana plantation. Through this program, the prisoners are given the chance to learn the value of work even while in jail.

Aside from the skills training, they get paid for their efforts. Each inmate-worker earns the minimum wage, plus overtime benefits. Part of his income goes into a trust fund, while the rest is given to the prisoner and his family.

Success stories

"We have plenty of success stories here," says Tesoro. "It is not uncommon to see inmates giving their families money. *Sila ang sumusustento sa pamilya nila sa labas ng presohan* (They are the ones providing for the needs of their families living outside the prison)."

In fact, on one occasion, a former inmate from Cebu City was able to save P60,621 from his earnings while working in the Tadeco-Dapecol banana plantation.

But despite the successes, some of the DPPF's critics feel that it is "coddling" the prisoners and not enough is being done to make them "pay for their crimes." This sentiment, which is the basic argument for harsher prison environment, is aggravated by some academic researches, which concluded that nothing could be done to reduce recidivism, or the backsliding that some inmates go through after their release.

In an article that appeared in the New York Times about inmate rehabilitation in America's prisons, Todd Clear, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan, said that starting in the 1980s, "most prisons gave up believing they had any responsibility for changing offenders or what happened after offenders were released."

Clear adds that since then, the objective of some prisons has become punishment and politicians competed to see who could make prisons more unpleasant, by taking away things like television and recreation and education classes.

In the Philippines, many still feel the same way. For these people, the Old Testament tenet of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" is still the best way to insure that "crime does not pay." But while the jury is still out on the effectiveness of retributive justice, there are clear indications that rehabilitating and re-educating prisoners work.

Life after prison

But if as they say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, then the ultimate gauge of the DPPF's success are the lives of the program participants after their release from prison.

For Elverio Encierto, a former inmate who spent a decade at the prison and who was employed also by Tadeco upon his release, the years spent working in the prison farm gave him the skills that allowed him to be hired.

Because of this, he says he was able to provide for his family, even sending all his children to school. In fact, he relates that during the time of his imprisonment, when he would work and send money to his family, his mother never believed that he was in jail.

"Galit ang mama ko, sabi n'ya hindi daw totoong bilanggo ako kasi bakit daw halos buwan-buwan nagpapadala ako ng pera sa asawa ko (My mother is angry, she says I was not a prisoner because almost every month, I send money to my wife)."

This same story is repeated time and again by former inmates who are now Tadeco employees like Samuel Magbasa, who was jailed for murder in 1992; Jovencio Mabunga, convicted of robbery and frustrated murder in 1977; and Narciso Dotosme, who entered Dapecol in 1962.

For all of them and the thousands like them who have gone through the rehabilitation program, and for those who are still under the program, prison no longer means the end of the road. By focusing on rehabilitation rather than retribution, the DPPF shows that there is still hope, not only for the convicts and ex-cons, but also for the entire Philippine justice system.

Furniture making displays artistic side of Davao inmates

By Anthony S. Allada
Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte

IF YOU think that century-old root stumps are wastes, think again.

Prisoners at the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF), formerly the Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol), make use of these stumps in their furniture-making industry.

But no ordinary folk can afford a well-furnished table set, made by five to 10 inmates for two to three days, because it is priced at P28,000 or more.

The prices though do not stop the prisoners from continuing with their work as they have already earned P500,000 in gross income as the demand from prospective buyers increases.

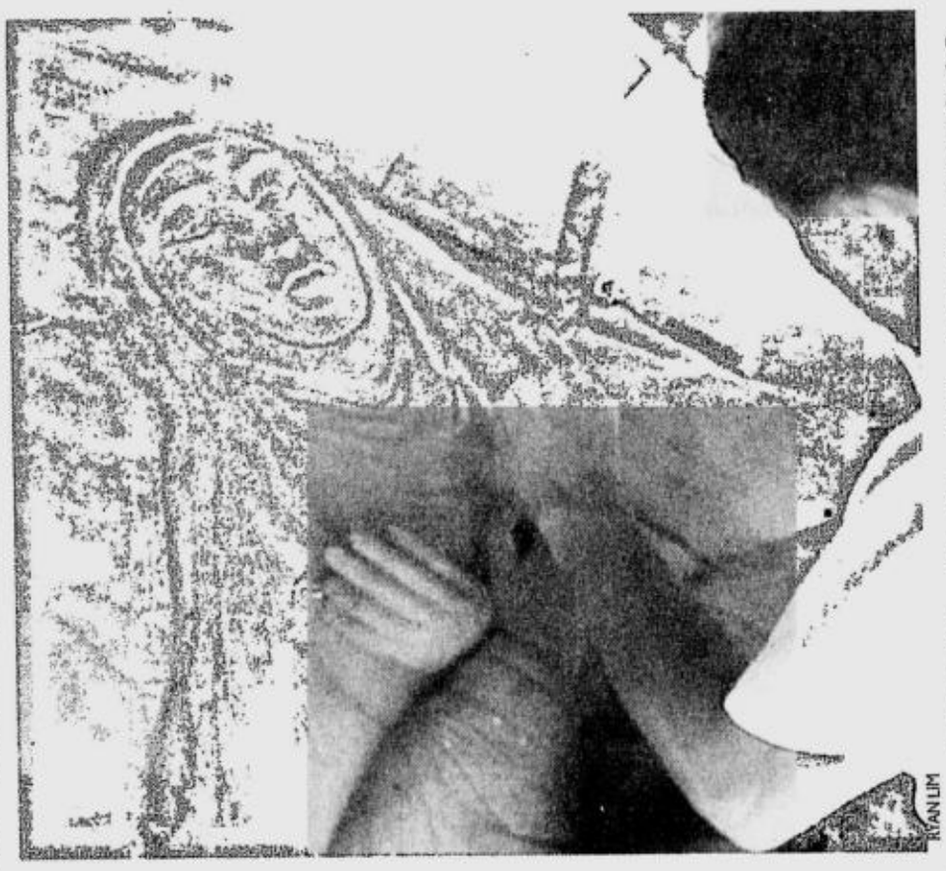
DPPF warden Supt. Venjo Tesoro is bent on making the colony the major producer of furniture in the country.

Just recently, the management of the country's biggest jail, the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, bought some P150,000 worth of furniture from the DPPF inmates.

Among the other buyers are Elizabeth Zimmerman Duterte, the estranged wife of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, and Sto. Tomas Mayor Dario Romano.

Businessmen known for collecting "exotic" items and art works also visit the prison to buy the prisoners' products.

Tesoro brands their products as "exotic," saying they do not use good lumber, only those out of use and are rare in the market.



RYAN LIM

In a year's time, he says the DPPF will be monopolizing the "exotic" furniture market, taking advantage of its manpower capabilities. For him, to "monopolize" means the DPPF can effortlessly tap the services of 50 inmates who will uproot stumps, which other furniture firms could not do.

A total of 50 prisoners from among the total colony population of 2,863 have been given the chance to work in the carpentry house. And the general warning for every jail center not to allow inmates to carry and hold bladed weapons seems to be unheeded at the DPPF.

The DPPF also opened an art gallery on J.P. Laurel Avenue in Davao City where its furniture products and prison art works are on display. This is a venture with Chiaroscuro, a prominent Davao-based art school and group of artists.

Tesoro said the "prison gallery" is considered to be the first in the world where inmates express their artistic inclinations through painting, sculpture, handicraft and other creative forms.

The DPPF has participated in various trade fairs, including the recent Kadayawan Festival in Davao City.

For every product sold, the carpenter-prisoners get 50 percent in cash, while the other half goes to the Inmate Fund, which has already reached more than P2 million.

The biggest contributors to the fund are the 800 prisoner-workers of the Tagum Development Cooperative (Tadeco) Banana Plantation owned by the family of Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo Jr.

The fund is intended for all prisoners, each having a specific share to take home when they are released.

Other inmates are involved in the 10-hectare vegetable garden, mushroom culture and rice production.

Last month, the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (Tesda) introduced the Barber Shop Course to some 50 inmates, who are trained to cut hair of fellow prisoners.

The prison is open Thursdays and Fridays for visitors who want to have their hair cut, Tesoro said.

PRISONERS work on a new masterpiece. RYAN LIM

This month, Tesda is set to train 50 inmates in shoemaking while 50 others are in tailoring.

"The concept is to teach the prisoners these business ventures so that when they return home they can start a new life," Tesoro said.

Meralco refund: ₱33 a month for 8 years

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can put up a good fight against a giant like Meralco."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said she would "strictly implement" the ruling of the Supreme Court's 3rd division.

But Rigoberto Tiglao also noted that Meralco intended to take the case to the 15-member tribunal.

"While the President hopes that the Supreme Court acts expeditiously, she cannot in any way influence the court to rush it into a decision. Proposals (from lawmakers) for the government to run the facilities of Meralco as a public utility, therefore, may be premature," he said.

Tiglao also said the President would make sure that there would be no disruption in power distribution in case the high court's ruling held.

Meralco is controlled by the Lopezes, who are also involved in media, telecommunications and water services.

Power

Agham is currently providing technical advice to the group Power (People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates) in its campaign against Meralco's PPA and proposed rate increase.

In a statement, Power said the high court's ruling was still not executory and addressed only part of Meralco's "overcharging practices." It also said the ruling was a welcome Christmas gift but that it might be held up until the next Advent.

"Meralco seems intent on acting the innocent by appealing to the high court to reconsider its decision," Power spokesperson Lolita Donato said. "We hope the justices would sustain the decision on the basis of hard facts and sound judgment and not the hysterical reasoning and baseless arguments of the giant monopoly."

Donato was referring to Meralco's statements that the ruling would worsen its financial problems and ultimately lead to serious effects on the national economy.

Ramon Ramirez, a Power convenor, pointed out that the ruling resolved only one of the issues that made Meralco's electricity rates exorbitant.

"The fight over the (PPA) and rate hikes due to unbundling are still being heard before the Energy Regulatory Commission. These also involve billions of pesos," Ramirez said.

He said Meralco had not satisfactorily explained why it was buying electricity from its affiliate—First Gas Power Corp.—at more than double the price it was paying the National Power Corp.

"For example," he said, "in 2000, Meralco was buying from Napocor at P3.18 per kWh but it was also buying from First Gas at P7.55 per kWh."

Ramirez also cited the P3.8-billion interest of the P12-billion accumulated consumer deposits that, he said, "Meralco has an obligation to pay its customers but has not done so." The deposit is collected from each customer before power service is started.

He cited another pending case—Meralco's violation of ERC rules by unilaterally changing the formula by which it arrived at the amount of its PPA.

This resulted in "over-recoveries" that the ERC ordered Meralco to stop collecting in May, he said. In turn, the order contributed to the significant drop of the PPA from P3.30 per kwh in April to P1.17 per kwh in July.

'Moral imperative'

Dismissing Meralco's claim of an economic disaster if it is forced to reimburse P28 billion, Tiglao said Ms Macapagal was duty-bound to enforce the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

"The President since she assumed office has felt that it is her moral imperative to ensure that government policy and actions favor the overwhelming majority of our people, within the framework of our laws," he said.

He added: "We know that the global investment community is watching developments in this case closely. We are certain, though, that they will understand that the Philippines is responsibly governed and that an effective, strong government will be able not only to enforce the writ of the law but also protect the best interests of the broad public."

On Friday, senior officials of Meralco said they were surprised and deeply saddened by the tribunal's ruling.

They said it would seriously affect the firm's ability to provide its customers the basic service of electricity.

Asked whether the Lopezes would change their business strategy, Meralco chair Manuel Lopez said: "I would have to meet with the rest of the family to look at this matter."

Congressmen yesterday urged the high court and the government to be firm and not succumb to "blackmail."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said Meralco should comply with the ordered refund, but on a staggered basis to prevent its collapse. He said the refund could be credited as payment for the monthly power bills of individual or corporate customers.

Call in COA

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said the President should order the Commission on Audit to examine Meralco's books in light of its claim that it was not in a position to make the refund and pay its loans.

"They cannot use that excuse. They have already amassed money from consumers. Where did the money go?" he said.

He also said that the Supreme Court "should not look kindly" on Meralco's warning of economic collapse.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation and communication, supported the call for a government takeover of the firm.

"This is where the government should take over, not Piatco," he said, referring to the contract for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. "This is where (Ms Macapagal's adviser) Gloria Tan Climaco can use her prowess in government takeovers because here, there is reasonable and justifiable ground for a takeover."

Paras assailed Meralco for warning that the economy would collapse if the refund would be forced on it.

"It's tantamount to blackmail," he said. "How can the entire economy collapse when one firm goes bankrupt?"

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles also dismissed the warning: "The economy will not collapse. Maybe Meralco will. Maybe the Lopezes will because they are heavily in debt. But the government can take control of the public utility."

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, whose family claims ownership of the firm, said Meralco had the right to appeal the ruling. But she added: "The decision must be upheld and I hope the government would follow up on that."

Marcos also said that if it could not make the refund in cash, Meralco could do so with company shares for household customers.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, chair of the House committee on legislative franchises that recently approved Meralco's franchise for next year, rejected the call for a government takeover of the firm.

He said the government had "no capacity" to do that "because we don't have the funds." *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Juliet L. Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana, TJ Burgonio*

Ex-Napocor chief linked to another Meralco overcharge

IN YET another case of overcharging, the Manila Electric Co. cheated its consumers of P337.6 million, according to former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

This time, he said, it was in conspiracy with a company headed by former National Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo.

Enrile made the claim during a hearing at the Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday, a day before the Supreme Court ruled that Meralco overcharged consumers by P28 billion and ordered it to refund the amount.

He said the P337.6-million overcharge stemmed from an irregular power supply contract between Meralco and Duracom Mobile Power Corp., owned by East Asia Power.

The contract called for Duracom to sell power at only 95 percent of the Napocor rate. But Duracom had supposedly been billing Meralco higher rates, which the latter supposedly passed on to consumers by a total of P337.6 million from January 2000 to June 2002.

Based on documents that Enrile presented, Alcordo once headed East Asia Power as president and stockholder.

The agreement between Duracom and Meralco called for the supply of 108 megawatts of power from diesel barges.

Alcordo and East Asia entered the picture on Jan. 20,1995, apparently to invest in the project and put up the barges. Alcordo supposedly agreed to pay Duracom commissions in the form of revenue retention ranging from P0.15 to P0.21 per kilowatt hour, for a total of P150-200 million a year at the exchange rate of P25 to $1.

East Asia supposedly engaged the consulting services of Sunny Sun, Duracom principal owner, to secure another power sales agreement with Meralco for an additional 108 MW.

The agreement supposedly stipulated a "success fee" of $3 million in addition to commissions of P118-157 million a year. Duracom supposedly confirmed that it secured the agreement of Meralco on Oct. 1, 1999.

A letter dated the same day showed that Alcordo as East Asia president agreed to pay an P80-million advance on the commissions on top of the success fee.

Enrile said in his testimony that the P337.6-million overcharge was highest from March 2001 to February 2002, coinciding with Alcordo's incumbency as Napocor president.

In his radio program yesterday, Enrile said President Macapagal-Arroyo recently named Alcordo her adviser on power with the rank of undersecretary of the Department of Energy.

Meralco lawyers are to cross-examine Enrile on his testimony on Nov. 20, when the ERC resumes its hearings on Meralco's rate-increase petition.

Deportees' wish: Home for Christmas

From page A1

ER he was working on getting the Filipinos deported "in mid-December." He did not specify the number of those set to fly out of California during the Christmas season, but said: "Currently, there are 200 detainees in different states across the nation."

He also said the Filipinos themselves had expressed the desire to return to the Philippines on a chartered flight rather than stay in indefinite detention.

The escalated deportation of all aliens in the United States convicted of various violations is a result of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, according to Karen Kraushaar, national spokesperson of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

In December 2001 the US Department of Justice announced the Alien Absconders Apprehension Initiative, which covers aliens who have not complied with the voluntary order for deportation. It specifically targets aliens who have overstayed or violated other US laws and originated from nations known to harbor terrorists.

In early January, Del Rosario said: "Our position is, our country is not in that category. We are not harboring terrorists, we are fighting them."

'Removal'

The Washington-based Kraushaar said a total of 314,000 aliens from various countries, including backlog cases, had "final orders for removal."

"All of them were afforded due process, and orders for their removal were issued only upon completion of the legal proceedings," she said, adding that the INS now used the term "removal" instead of "deportation."

"The INS is not systematically rounding out any specific nationality," Kraushaar told the INQUIRER. "About 90 percent of the 314,000 aliens are Mexicans who have been removed from the US, with some of them returning to their country voluntarily." (Mexico is bordered by Texas, Arizona and California.)

She said Filipinos form "a small percentage" of the total.

In an interview on Nov. 8, Del Rosario said he had been told by the INS that there were "only about 12,000 Filipino deportees, or about 4 percent of the overall total."

Kraushaar furnished the INQUIRER a list from the Deportable Alien Control System for Fiscal Year 2002 (ending in September) showing that 334 Filipinos were scheduled for deportation.

Of the number, 165 overstayed the period specified in their visas, and the rest committed other offenses such as embezzlement.

Filipinos ranked 13th among the Top 35 nationalities on the list. The others cited were nationals of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic.

As many as 457 Filipinos were deported in Fiscal Year 2001.

Mechanics

Del Rosario recently visited the correctional facility in Mansfield, Texas, where Filipino airport mechanics are being detained for immigration violations.

Jose Maglalang and Remegio Guemo are among the 10 Filipinos employed by the Spirit Aviation Services and working at the Meacham Airport in Fort Worth, Texas. The others have been transferred to another location, and a number are undergoing deportation procedures.

Del Rosario said Maglalang and Guemo were in good health and being treated well, and had accepted the fact that they would be eventually returned to the Philippines.

The two also expressed satisfaction with their court-appointed public defenders, according to the ambassador.

The lawyers are working to have the offense reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor, which will enable the deportees to re-enter the United States after a stipulated period.

The "removal" of Filipino workers in the United States presents an economic problem for the Philippines.

The figure only represents bank-transacted remittances and does not include dollars sent to families in the Philippines through home-bound relatives and friends.

During US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to the Philippines in June, among the suggested talking points for President Macapagal-Arroyo was an appeal to the US government to go easy on overstaying Filipinos because of economic repercussions.But Powell made no such commitment.

Filipino as a superbeing: Filipinizing the world

From page A1

was also such a limited view. It couldn't see the bigger picture beyond kidnappings and bombings and the dollar exchange and the one-fourth of the populace that wanted to migrate. Is what one has before one's nose all there is to life?

Thesis/antithesis

Well, Georgina went to town. As she always does when there is farther than the horizon to see. The Filipino, she said, defies definition, he is the thesis and the antithesis, he is in this world but not of this world. You can't put him in a straitjacket and measure him. For instance, it is unintelligible to the Filipino why things must be planned out so that results don't miscarry.

Unlike the Singaporean, regimentation freaks out the Filipino. But he can see value in what cannot be seen. If there is no order, westerners, used to the good life, freak out, they get terror stricken. When plans collapse they commit suicide. Europe and Japan have the highest suicide rates.

The Filipino is a highly evolved soul yet lives a dual reality. Locked in his DNA is the capacity to be a superbeing. When you begin to feel, *Wala nang pag-asa itong taong ito, kalat na kalat* (He's hopeless, in a chaotic state), that's when he feels he has to get himself together, *kasi sukdulan na, crisis na.*

Crisis person

The Pinoy is a crisis person. It is in his nature. *Pag sagad na sagad na siya* (when he hits rock bottom), he is able to muster all the courage in his being and rise beyond the physical. What is significant about People Power I and II, as we never tire of recounting, is that they were such strange revolutions. There was no mob rule in those huge gatherings, people were eating ice cream, dancing, singing. And yet everyone was dead serious about toppling a government and replacing it with another.

At the same time the Filipino was praying and praying. He was evoking higher forces. In involving supreme values—of redressing injustice, the need for a new order etc.—which are the ethics of an evolved and heroic man, he had gone up to the higher levels of his being. His frequencies rose, he went beyond the third dimension, into a protected state, a level beyond destruction. That is why no shot could be fired, no grenade could be thrown. Only the Pinoy is able to do that and it has become some sort of a model for revolution in Asia. It is heart wrenching to watch other nations crush their oppressive regimes because they become terribly bloody.

Most contented

At the same time the Pinoy is unaware of his own power. He's a simple guy, often uneducated, even *tanga* (dumb). You can't depend on him to analyze things philosophically. But his collective unconscious tells him not to worry, about disasters, about finances. That is why in a recent survey the Filipino is the most contented man in Asia, despite the fact that everything in his country looks dismal. The Japanese is the least contented. Obviously their sights are very different.

The Filipino will always find a greener pasture. And so, the diaspora. It has something to do maybe with the Filipino's mission for the world. Every country, every race, every person, has a purpose for being here on earth whether one is aware of it or not. That is why the Filipino was placed in a Third World country, where nothing works. He is so poor but there is no one to run to for help. If to find a living abroad were not part of the mission, maybe he would have been born in a First World where there would be no logic for leaving home.

Blocked uteruses

Did you ever wonder why there are so many children in the Philippines? If you are into esoteric studies, says Georgina, you would have heard of the many souls that are trying to incarnate in this century, which by 2010 will be the beginning of the Golden Age for the world. But the uteruses of the First World are blocked with contraceptives and abortifacients so these children incarnate in Third World countries like the Philippines. The souls though, who had really wished to be born in the West but had to incarnate in the Philippines, through the diaspora, end up where they wished to see light in the first place.

When one has a divine assignment everything is provided for—and so for the Filipino woman who comprises the bigger part of the Filipino labor export, there is always a *lola*, or a spinster aunt who can take charge of the children left behind. No shortage of love in the Filipino family, the more mouths to feed, the more love one has in return.

Put a Pinay anywhere in the world and she feels at home, not just in America. She takes care of the babies entrusted to her care as if it were her birthright. Even when relegated to the lowest and meanest jobs, the self-sacrificing Pinay is always fulfilled.

Role in world scenario

It is becoming clear that the Filipino has a role in the coming world scenario. Pinoys are in every corner of the earth. As the world's best *atsay*, the Pinay has the ear of the mistress whose husband may be rich and powerful, who may be a first lady. The Pinay may be the *yaya* (governess) of princes and princesses or a sultan's children.

We didn't just export bodies. We exported our own brand of people and our own culture. Somehow the Pinay's multinational wards imbibe Filipino values. She rocks them to sleep with "Dandansoy," tells them folk tales, tweaks their ears, teaches them how to pray. She maybe gives them a taste of her *tuyo* (dried fish). She imbues in them the Filipino values of cleanliness, obedience, love of God and family and connectedness to everyone (remember the eternal texting?).

Teachers, too

The Filipino is very good abroad although she has no idea of the good she does to her Western wards. But the Americans are realizing it and would now like to hire Filipino teachers as well. Well, well. Is it because their teachers don't like the poor pay or are scared to face psychopath teeners with rifles?

Apparently the big giant who doesn't want to be controlled is willing to have his children tutored by Filipinos. Was it because the domestics abroad (most of whom are teachers) impressed the Americans so much that we have earned a recommendation?

Once upon a time the Americans Americanized us, and now we are getting a chance to Filipinize them!

I can see, said Georgina Solina emphatically, that in the age of Aquarius the Filipino will be empowered, his sun will rise, he will govern and his real wisdom will shine through. In Hawaii there is already a Filipino governor of a state. And the states are very autonomous. Even choosing a candidate for president who is a Filipino is no longer an impossibility.

And so the Filipino woman is assigned to restore order in the universe just as she always is in her own homeland. Isn't it she who picks up the pieces when everything in the home is in shambles? Not the husband. It's a woman's job even with the nation. Wasn't it two women presidents who had to do the cleaning up after two revolutions?

A divine energy has pushed the Pinay to rise above her limitations and be a mother to the world. Quite a paradox, of course, since her own country is in great disorder. More educated countrymen will say, why, the Filipino can't even learn his lessons, he commits the same mistakes, over and over and over. Fifty years have gone past and look at those who have overtaken us—Singapore, Korea, China, Malaysia, everybody and his brother.

So the scholars among us, sighs Georgina Solina, will still have to reconcile the good and the evil in every Filipino, why in his country he acts like a villain but elsewhere in the world he is a hero. There is no point in nagging and criticizing because all we come up with is that nothing can be done. Things don't work, no one can be trusted, nothing can be done. So my prescription is, Georgina says, go above that, transcend the limitations of a human being, go to a higher dimension where one does not have to submit to these limitations. We have to do this because fear and depression and despair are pulling down our level of consciousness and that is what causes diseases and accidents and disasters.

In the meantime, breathe deep and keep your chins up, Conrad de Quiros and Michael Tan and also Teodoro Benigno. I know you steadfast rooters for the Filipino also get tired, maybe you too need some morale boosting.

So, take it from from this faithful reader and most-of-the time fan.

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PLAYOFF AT RIVIERA'S COUPLES

Miñoza brothers win U-Bix Pro Am

SILANG, Cavite—Brothers Raul and Paul Miñoza popped in from nowhere yesterday and snatched the U-Bix Riviera Pro Am in a dramatic playoff at Riviera's Couples here.

It was Raul's first partnership with Paul, who is a member of the national training pool.

The younger Paul, 38, clinched it with a 5-foot birdie on the first playoff hole at No. 9 after a wedge shot from 110 yards by Raul, putting an end to a dream win for Eddie Bagtas and his Korean student, 16-year-old Kim Chunghoi.

Bagtas and Kim could only make par.

But the 46-year-old Bagtas had himself to blame for the debacle: He missed winning the crown for his team outright when he flubbed a 10-foot birdie on 18 in regulation play.

Before that, Bagtas pitched short on the par-3 17th, the ball rolling back down the sharply-angled green 30 feet from the cup.

They three-putted from there for the crippling double-bogey that breathed life to the Miñozas' bid for glory.

The Miñozas, bogeying 18 after Paul drained a 5-foot putt to forge the playoff, finished with a 2-over-par 74 for 301 against the 76 of Bagtas and Kim in the four-day event that staked P1 million, courtesy of U-Bix Corporation president Bert Bravo.

"Finally, I'm a winner," said Raul Miñoza in Filipino. "I've been waiting for this for the last 15 years."

Raul turned pro in 1987, but he always stood behind the shadows of his illustrious brother, Frankie.

"But the good thing with this is, I won it with another Miñoza," said Raul, referring to his brother Paul. "I failed last year with my partnership with another brother (Ben-Ben). This time, the gods of golf finally smiled at us. Life begins at 40."

Ben-Ben paired with Ben Bello this time; they missed the cut.

On hand to award the check of P138,200 to professional Raul were Dr. Felina Bravo, wife of Bert who was in Germany for a business conference. Paul received P34,560 in kind.

Dr. Bravo was assisted at the awarding ceremonies by by U-Bix EVP V. C. Ty and NGAP president Rod Feliciano and Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez, the NGAP vice president.

Nobody won the Toyota Altis 1.8, the prize for a hole-in-one feat at No. 6, in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, San Miguel Corporation, Caffe Appassionato, Citgo, Servicemaster, Grappa's, Pagcor, Cena's, Mizuno, Pivo Praha, Konica Corporation and Bravo Golf. *Al S. Mendoza*

Scores:

301-R. Miñoza-Miñoza 78-74-75-74, E. Bagtas-Kim CH 70-79-76-76.

302-V. Lauron-P. Salvador 75-76-73-78.

303-A. Eso-A. Eso 75-76-74-78.

305-J. Pagunsan-J. Pagunsan 76-71-79-79, M. Dizon-B. Floro 74-76-74-81.

308-N. Kempis-E. Vinluan 76-78-79-75.

311-R. Cuello-JV Tecson 78-76-76-81, J. Casas-B. Zaragosa 81-76-77-77.

312-R. Garalde-J. Laput 79-75-80-78.

313-D. Saclot-J. Delariarte 78-79-78-78, R. Banares-E. Escalona 77-74-82-80, C. Nival-J. Bernis 81-73-78-81.

314-Ed Olaybar-J. Binag 83-73-79-79.

315-V. Santia-U. Hanada 79-80-75-81.

317-G. Cantada-T. Santos 83-80-77-77, T. Lascuna-T. Escano 81-78-78-80, R. Abaring-J. Gironella 78-79-77-83, R. Cabajar-F. Baligasa 79-77-77-84.

318-M. Eso-J. Buencamino 85-77-76-80, R. Morabe-R. Torrecampo 79-84-75-80, R. Marcelo-J. San Vicente 78-82-76-82, A. Que-S. Bedi 79-76-80-83, E. Estrera-B. Aw 83-77-75-83.

319-R. Diocares-JP Reyes 80-78-81-80.

321-A. Gomez-P. Elardo 74-84-82-81, C. La'O-F. delos Santos 80-76-83-82, A. Cruz-B. Bakunawa 80-74-81-86.

DR. FELINA Bravo (extreme left) poses with winners Raul and Paul Miñoza (raising the Bravo Cup). Others in photo are (from second to left) V.C. Ty, NGAP president Rod Feliciano and Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez. JESS YUSON

Outside of the usual

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SOME people say they find it hard to squeeze in a time to relax. They just don't know what they are missing. They argue they need 25 hours to more or less make their day complete. At the office.

Actually, they seem not to know the importance of relaxation—or simply refuse to recognize it. They either allow themselves to be deluded by their standing in public, or get carried away by success.

Mostly, these people are incurable romantics: They are hopelessly attracted to their work like ants to sugar. They come in different shapes and sizes, varied stations in life. Mostly, they are the bosses, or the moneyed.

It's ironic but when you are a mere employee, you don't really fall in love that much with your job. You just go through the motions. Not much passion involved.

It's when you become a boss, when you are given some power, that you suddenly start to spend more time in the office, with your job.

Presidents work 25 hours a day because the job demands that.

You are a clerk, and you are required only eight hours of "quality hours" to your boss.

Not the boss, the moneyed. They are the most foolish persons in the world. They lose focus on their lives, on the world outside of their world, because they drown themselves in paper work as if their life depended on it. They even flaunt their power —wearing it like a badge befitting a Doberman's temper.

They know not what they miss in this world filled with wonders and weirdos.

There's always a separate world for all of us or we fall prey to robotism: Revolving just around one thing without regard for things other than our work. What is this, puppetry? Life in the fast lane isn't life worth living. We got to slow down sometimes. Even God rested on the seventh day. Rome had need for inferno to burn its own: Nero.

I saw Tito Sotto play golf yesterday.

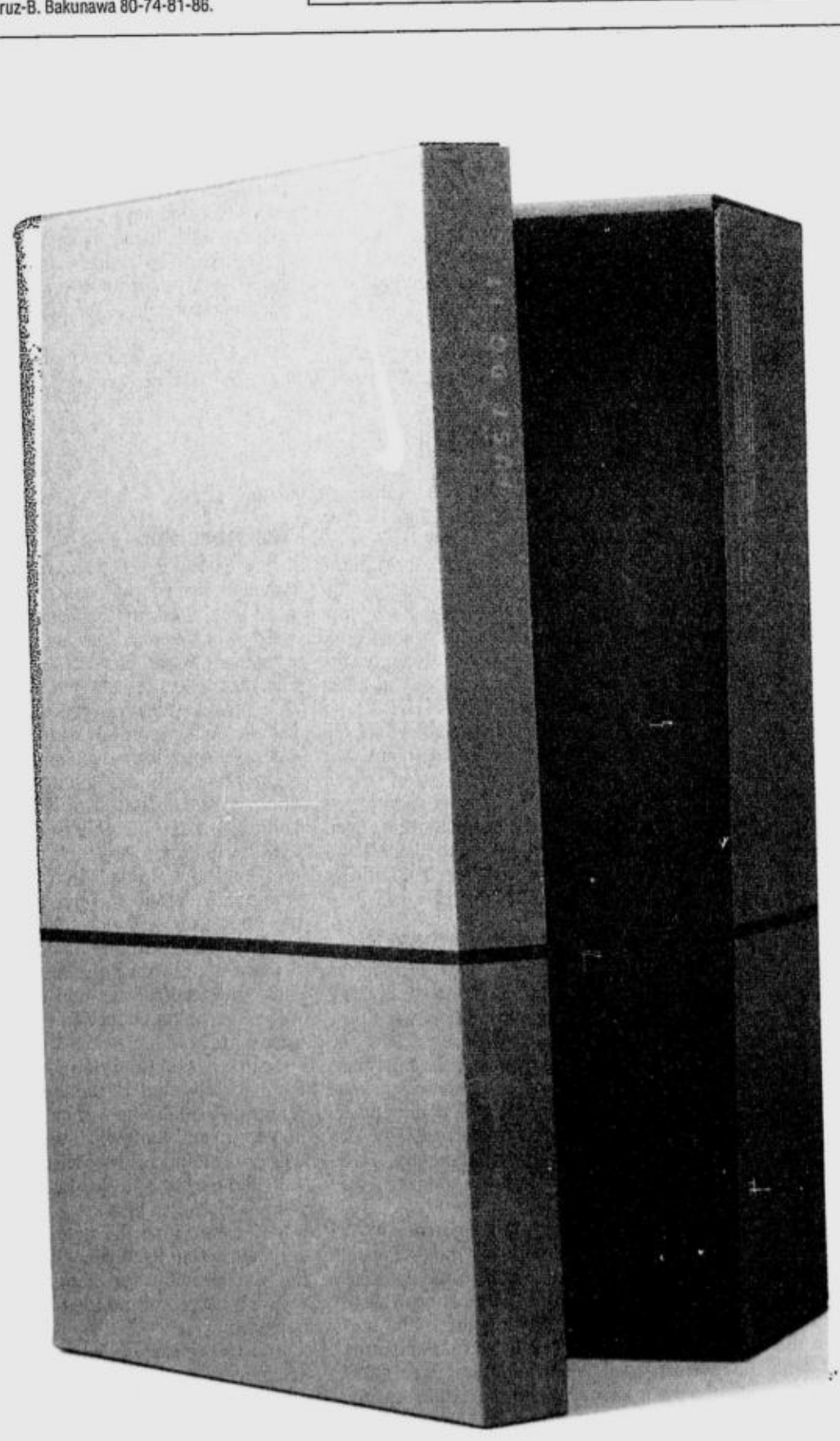
"Without golf, life is as dull as night without light," he said.

Vice Admiral Louie Fernandez said: "What I love most was what Lee Trevino said—Without the Seniors Golf Tour, where will I go?"

The trick is, always to find something outside of the usual.

I sometimes construct a chair, a table. Hammer and saw, they make for good substitutes to pen and paper when the soul starts to veer away from reality.

If you find enjoyment in watering the plants, giving your dog a bath, or looking for spiders in the early morning, fine. Welcome to the club.



NOW OPEN AT GREENBELT 3. PARK

UNION TRUST FUND

Bernardino ready for talks with players

BERNARDINO

By June Navarro

THE PLAYERS' appeal for transparency in the trust fund and a seat in the PBA Board of Governors will be on top of PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino's agenda beginning tomorrow.

Bernardino said he would arrange a dialogue between the players and the commissioner's office after gracing the PBA out-of-town game in Dumaguete City.

League-leader Coca-Cola faced the Alaska Aces yesterday at the Lamberto Macias Sports Center in Dumaguete City.

"I will hold talks with the players after returning from Dumaguete as requested by PBA chair Butch Alejo," Bernardino told the Inquirer during his birthday bash for sportswriters at the Cuneta Astrodome Friday night.

Alejo had asked Bernardino to get the true sentiment of the players' union, which reactivated two weeks ago after nearly five years of hibernation.

The players' association, led by veterans Alvin Patrimonio of Purefoods and Alaska's Jojo Lastimosa, has been pushing for a seat in the PBA board and a comprehensive accounting of the players' trust fund since 1994, among others.

Lastimosa, the spokesperson of the players' association, welcomed the expected dialogue with the commissioner since the players' group are hell-bent on seeking an audience with the PBA's bigwigs.

"It's welcome news for us. The dialogue with commissioner Bernardino will open a door of opportunity for us to make a compromise with the PBA board," said Lastimosa, a 15-year PBA veteran.

Alejo said the players' association has to come forward and make the team owners understand the purpose of its request to occupy a seat in the board of governors.

"We have to understand exactly the purpose of their request to participate in the board and I'm sure that if they're valid, the board will keep an open mind," Alejo pointed out.

Represented by two cagers on each of the 10 PBA ballclubs, the board of directors of the PBA players association will hold an election of officers before the season ends.

The players union went into inactivity beginning in 1998. Its president then was La Salle coach and former San Miguel Beer playmaker Franz Pumaren.

"The problem back then was that nobody sustained the cause of the union. We won't let it happen again," said Lastimosa, pointing to Kenneth Duremdes of Alaska and San Miguel's Olsen Racela as worthy replacements upon his retirement.

Mavericks raise victory run to 9

BOSTON–The unbeaten Dallas Mavericks surged to a 50-39 half-time lead and maintained that margin the rest of the way in posting a 97-86 victory over the Boston Celtics in NBA play on Friday night.

Dallas's Dirk Nowitzki got 16 points in each half to finish with a season-high 32. He also dished out seven assists and grabbed nine rebounds.

Teammate Steve Nash added 14 points and nine assists.

Antoine Walker paced the Celtics with 22 points, with Tony Delk and Shammond Williams each getting 19.

Raptors 84 Nuggets 79

In Toronto, the Raptors finally found a way to win against Midwest Division teams, rallying to down the Denver Nuggets, 84-79.

Toronto had previously lost to the "Texas Triangle" of San Antonio, Houston and Dallas.

The Raptors had five players in double figures, with Voshon Lenard, who is subbing for injured Vince Carter, counting 19 points and Antonio Davis getting 18.

Pacers 103 Bucks 100 (OT)

In Indianapolis, the Pacers used a "prayer" by Ron Artest in overtime to post a 103-100 decision over the never-say-die Milwaukee Bucks.

The Bucks rallied to force a fifth period, outscoring the Pacers 30-12 in the fourth stanza. *Reuters*

Shaq returns Nov. 22

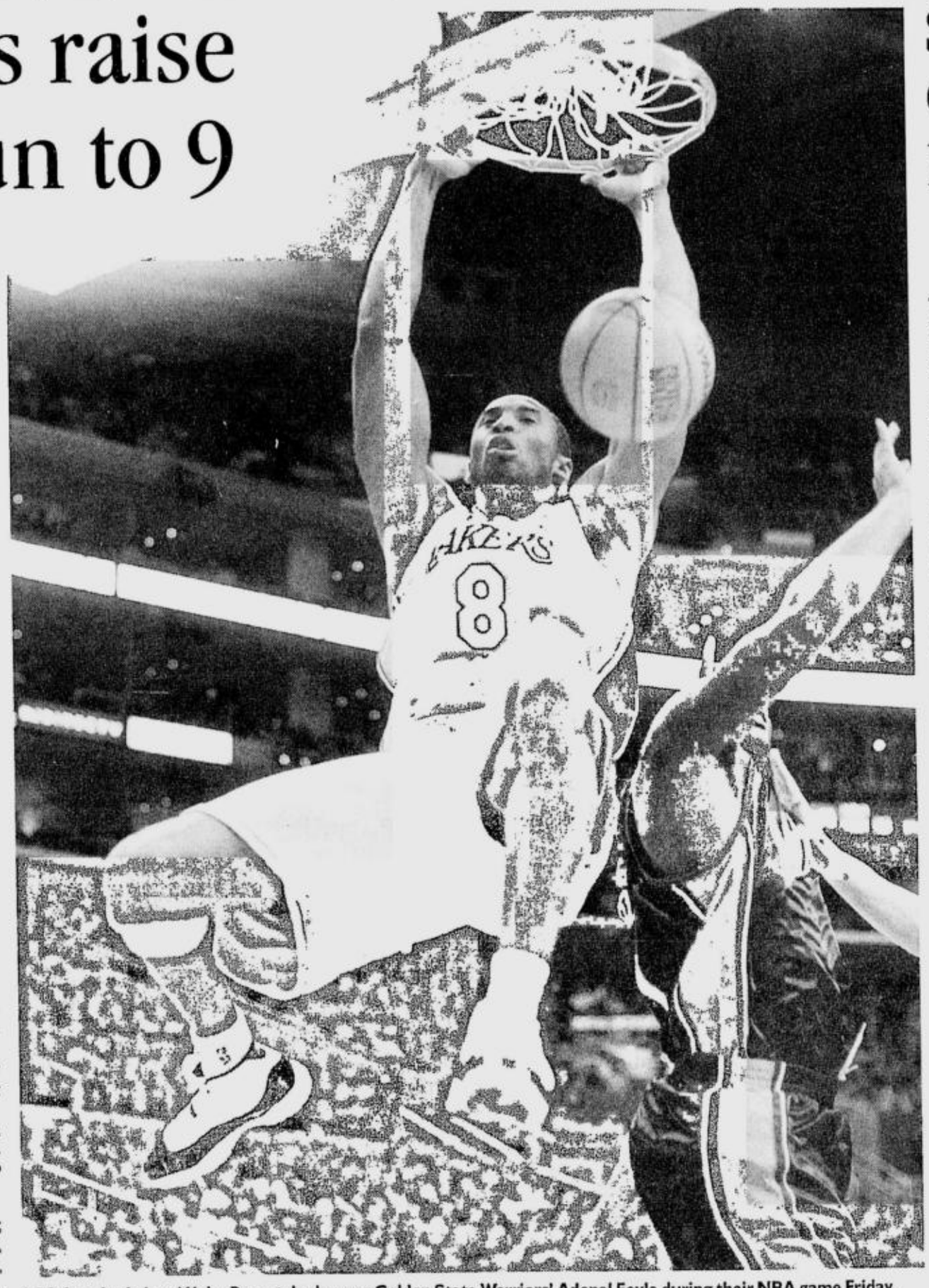
LOS ANGELES–Shaquille O'Neal, who is recovering from toe surgery, has set Nov. 22 as the day he plans to return to the Lakers' lineup.

O'Neal told the Los Angeles Times on Friday that he is eyeing a return when the Lakers host the Chicago Bulls at Staples Center arena.

O'Neal will have missed the Lakers first 12 games of the National Basketball Association regular season if he comes back against the Bulls. *AFP*

COMPLETE RESULTS:

Indiana 103, Milwaukee 100 (OT); Toronto 84, Denver 79; Dallas 97, Boston 86; Detroit 86, Utah 75; Minnesota 99, Memphis 95; New Jersey 93, Miami 84; New Orleans 105, Chicago 87; Portland 112, LA Clippers 88; Seattle 111, Sacramento 97; LA Lakers 96, Golden State 89 (OT); Phoenix 88, Houston 87.


LOS Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant dunks over Golden State Warriors' Adonal Foyle during their NBA game Friday. Bryant had 45 points in the Lakers' 96-89 overtime win. AP

SMB-P'foods; Ginebra faces FedEx tonight

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3:45 p.m.-San Miguel vs Purefoods
5:45 p.m.-FedEx vs Ginebra

TWO teams hope to regain their wounded pride while another tries to break free from a long slump in the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sister squads San Miguel Beer and Purefoods face each other in the curtain-raiser before Air21-Federal Express, still winless after five games, meets Barangay Ginebra in the main game at 5:45 p.m.

The Beermen went down against Batang Red Bull, 75-74, in overtime and tied Sta. Lucia Realty at 2-2 while the Kings failed to use their manpower advantage over Shell, 71-65, in Antipolo City Friday night.

Purefoods, however, got lucky last time out after subduing the Alaska Aces, 62-56, that made them the only team, which came off a victory in today's double-header.

Focus will be on how the Beermen will exploit the Hotdogs' weakness inside the paint, an advantage they failed to display against the Thunder, who share identical league-leading records with Coca-Cola at 4-1.

Dorian Pena, Nic Belasco and two-time MVP Danny Ildefonso have what it takes to bully their opponents in the shaded area while Dondon Hontiveros, Boybits Victoria and Olsen Racela could hit their strides from the outside.

As it is, Kerby Raymundo, skipper Alvin Patrimonio, Boyet Fernandez, Rey Evangelista and Noy Castillo should be up to the task for the Hotdogs, champions during season-opening Governors Cup.

The Kings are favored against the Express but once Allan Caidic's backcourters play hero again instead of bringing the ball to the brawny Eric Menk down low, expect them to go down the way they did opposite Shell.

The 6-foot-6 Menk banged in 13 points and grabbed 25 rebounds but had less ball touches inside the paint that could deal the lethal blow against the smaller Turbo Chargers.

Meanwhile, Alaska routed Coca-Cola, 85-68, in an out-of-town game in Dumaguete City. The Aces cut short the Tiger's four-game winning run as they improved to 3-3. The Tigers dropped to 4-2. *June Navarro*

ICTSI-La Salle nips Cheeseballs

GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Center)*
2 p.m.–Blu vs John O
4 p.m.–Dazz vs Welcoat

By Dennis U. Eroa

LIPA CITY–James Yap made a triumphant return as he conspired with Bernzon Franco in powering ICTSI-La Salle to a close 77-74 victory over Cheeseballs-Shark yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Lipa Convention Center here.

The 6-foot-3 Yap, dubbed as a young version of Allan Caidic, scored the assurance free throws, while Franco capped an outstanding performance by drilling eight points in the final five minutes of action, lifting the Archers to their second win in three games.

Yap missed ICTSI's first two games and was closed to sitting out the whole conference only to make a sudden turnaround, opting to fulfill his obligation with the Archers.

"We never closed the door on James," said ICTSI team manager Manny Salgado.

While Franco, Bruce Dacia and Mark Cardona were burning the hoops, ICTSI's bid was lifted by the foxy playmaking of Dino Aldeguer, who hit his open teammates with timely passes.

Sharpshooter Stephen Padilla buried three of his six triples, while Mark Magsumbol added one as the Cheeseballs stayed within striking distance, 74-75, 10.8 seconds remaining.

Playmaker Warren Ybañez appeared to complete a stunning comeback when he intercepted Franco's inbound, 8.7 seconds remaining, and was fouled. Ybañez's nerves, however, failed as he bungled two charities.

LBC-Batangas edged Sunkist-Pampanga, 78-74, in the second game to improve its record to 2-1. Sunkist-Pampanga tasted its third straight defeat.

SCORES:

ICTSI 77–Franco 16, Dacia 14, Cardona 10, Hugnatan 8, Aldeguer 7, Johnson 7, Yeo 6, Yap 6, Uy 3, Sta. Maria 0, Sharma 0.

CHEESEBALLS 74–Padilla 25, Magsumbol 11, Sotto 9, Sanz 6, Robinson 4, Ybanez 4, Ortega 4, Castro 3, Omolon 2, Junio 2, Coching 2, Basilides 2, Epondulan 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 39-33, 51-49, 77-74

Lancers, Recoletos meet NCR teams

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
1 p.m.–UE vs USJ-R
3 p.m.–UV vs JRU

THE INTENSE rivalry between Manila and Cebu cage teams will be showcased today when the Champions League 2002 resumes at the Makati Coliseum.

University of the Visayas and University of San Jose Recoletos, the top two teams of the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc., tackle Jose Rizal University and University of the East, respectively, as they dispute the last two quarterfinals berths.

The UV-JRU tussle is set at 3 p.m., following the 1 p.m. opener between UE and USJ-R.

At the helm of the UV Lancers' campaign are head coach Elmer Cabahug and his deputy, Al Solis, both members of the 1983 UV team which copped the National Inter-collegiate basketball title at the expense of Arellano University.

"We didn't go all the way to Manila without being prepared for a hard fight," said Cabahug, who arrived with the CSAFI champion Lancers aboard a Pal flight Friday noon and held practice right away.

Champion's League commissioner Ramon Fernandez said today's games should be exciting.

"Through the years, it's always the Cebu teams which give Manila teams a run for their money and this may be the case again," said Fernandez, who played for San Carlos University in Cebu before becoming the PBA's first four-time MVP. "Basketball fans, Manilans or Visayans, can look forward to two very exciting games and I'm inviting all of them to cheer for their respective teams."

The winners will join Ateneo, San Sebastian College, University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University, St. Francis of Assisi and Las Pinas College in the round-of-8 of the tournament being supported by PLDT, San Miguel Corp., Petron, Adidas, Pagcor and Hapee.

National coach Boyzie Zamar will be steering the UE Warriors while Boy de Vera will be guiding the JRU Heavy Bombers. *Roy Luarca*

Jopete Ray, Liberty share title

JOPETE Ray Showdown and Liberty Gold Cup emerged co-champions in the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 3rd Stag Series 2002 6-Stag Derby" Thursday night at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Jopete Ray Showdown, owned by lawyer Romero Yu and Joseph Chua of Malvar, Batangas and Liberty Gold Cup of Dong Chung and William Go of Antipolo City, tallied five points each to outclass 43 other entries.

Runners-up with 4.5 points were Blandy Tolentino (San Pablo Heat II), LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz and Butch Littaua (Purple Haze Arnis Master E-68 I) and Tony Boy Tabora/Jay Sobrepeña (Tuba Big Bird I).

The fiery showdown of Luzon's prominent gamefowl breeders comes to a climactic finish this Tuesday and Thursday with the staging of "LGBA 4th Stag Series 7-Stag Championship Derby."

"The championship derby is a must-see for everyone, because the stags to be fielded are mostly derby winners already. Aside from the derby championship, participants are also gunning for the LGBA Breeder of the Year 2002 award," said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

So far, the top contenders are Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (EDL Crowsland Excellence I, 15 points); Edwin Aranes and Raffy Campos (Red, 13); Tolentino (San Pablo Heat II, 12.5); Diaz and Littaua (Purple Haze Arnis Master I, 11.5); Edmund Yasay (Wild Harvester, 11.5); Maj. Bobby Doromal (Buddy and Bob I, 11) and Jay de Jesus/Joe Alimbuyuguen/Danny Aruelo (DJ Alliance, 11).

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Indiana vs Minnesota, 9 a.m., Solar Sports
TENNIS: Masters Cup (Shanghai), 9 a.m. (r) and 3 p.m. (r - 10:30 p.m.), Star Sports
BASEBALL: Intercontinental Baseball Cup, 7 a.m. and 10 a.m., ESPN
GOLF: UBS Warburg Cup 2002, 11:30 a.m., Star Sports
BILLIARDS: 2001 Sudden Death 7-Ball, 6 p.m. (r), ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: Macau Grand Prix 2002, 2 p.m., ESPN
POOL: Rack 'Em Up, 5 p.m., ESPN
World Pool Masters 2002, 7 p.m., ESPN
Mosconi Cup 2001, 11:30 p.m. (r), ESPN
SOCCER: Premiership Extra, 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports
UEFA Champions League Weekly, 1 p.m., ESPN
Spanish Football League, tomorrow at 3 a.m., Star Sports

PCA OPEN

Arcilla, other big guns hurdle rivals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP seed Johnny Arcilla and the rest of the favorites had no problem getting rid of their respective first round foes yesterday in the PCA Open men's singles at the Philippine Columbian Association indoor courts.

Coming off from victories in Escudero, Mandaue and Bacolod Open tournaments, Arcilla easily disposed of Arnel dela Cruz, 6-0, 6-1, to open his bid for the title he won last year over Adelo Abadia, who also hurdled Carlito Rojo, 6-1, 6-2. Michael Mora also overwhelmed Pereme Alina, 6-1, 6-2.

But it was second seed Joseph Victorino who had the easiest time advancing to the next round when he handily eliminated Rocky Paglalunan, 6-0, 6-0, in just 40 minutes.

Using his height advantage to a hilt, not to mention his vast repertoire of shots, Victorino ousted Paglalunan, who almost scored a game using his strong forehand but the deft Victorino expertly deflected it with timely ground strokes.

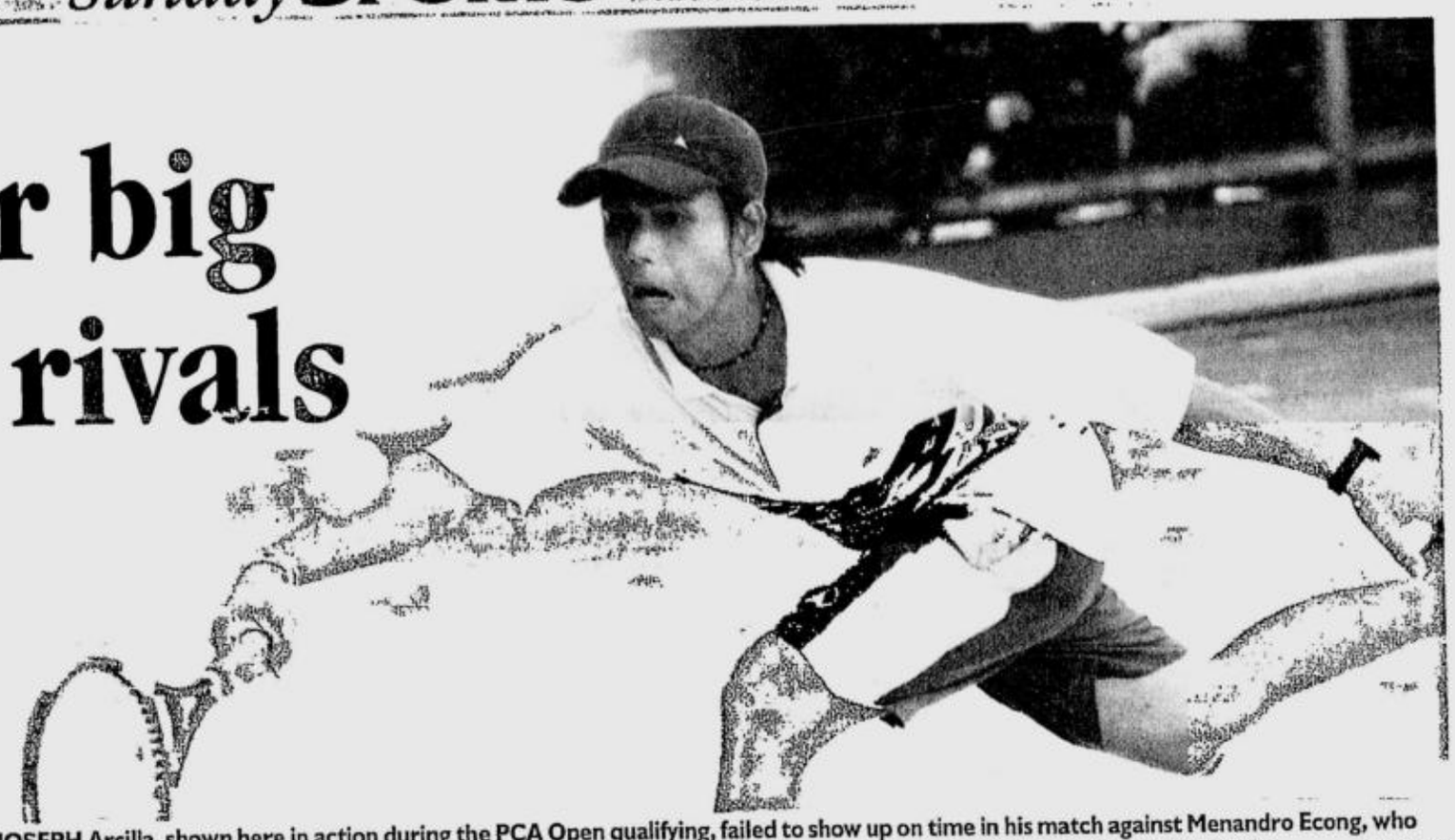
Also winning the first round in the P400,000 tourney presented by Dunlop and Accel were Antonio Sagansay, Rolando Ruel, Neil Co, Frederick Morgan, Pio Tolentino, Yannick Guba, Chimuel Mantua, Elbert Anasta, Alexander Lazaro, Menandro Econg and PJ Tiero.

Sagansay bundled out Michael Tenoria, 6-2, 6-3; Rue whipped Gilbert Estrada, 6-2, 6-3; Co defeated Antonio Quiza; while Morgan routed Melvin Sy, 6-1, 6-0.

Tolentino edged Aldrin Geluz, 7-6 (6), 6-2; Guba trounced Nico Reigo De Dios, 6-1, 6-3; while Mantua bested Vedasto Magpantay, 6-4, 6-2.

Anasta survived Rogelio Hermano, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4; Tiero routed Ferdinand Saraza, 6-3, 6-1; Lazaro beat Lourelo Alburo, 7-6 (4), retired; while Econg won by default over Joseph Arcilla.

The tourney is sponsored by Chowking, Photokina, PBCom, Coca Cola, Sam Miguel Corporation, PVL Restaurant-Little Lawrence, Toby's, Copacabana, Trans Asian Power and Philippine Star.



JOSEPH Arcilla, shown here in action during the PCA Open qualifying, failed to show up on time in his match against Menandro Econg, who won by default. Arcilla, one of the most promising qualifiers in the tourney, blamed the traffic jam in Pandacan for his debacle. ERIK ARAZAS

Indian posts upset

SANIA Mirza of India kept her winning streak, upsetting fourth seed Khoo Chin Bee, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday to march into the final of the $10,000 Union Cement-ITF Philippines Women's Circuit II at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Mirza, 16, won the first leg of the tourney last week and could score a back-to-back today when she faces Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan, who eliminated Dong Yan-Hua of China, 6-0, 6-4, in the other semis.

Mirza holds a 2-0 edge over Amanmuradova in their head-to-head battles.

Mirza demolished Amanmuradova for the similar event held in Hyderabad last September, before ousting the Uzbek again last month in the first round of the Asian Tennis Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

"I'm more confident now than ever," said the 5-foot-6 Mirza, ranked 571 in the world.

Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TRADITION

Malarayat sweeps 'em

IN an overpowering performance, newcomer Mt. Malarayat pulled off an unprecedented sweep of all three divisions in emerging as the new champion of The Tradition inter-club tournament in three different course recently.

Mt. Malarayat's 24-man squad took the eighth edition of the tourney by storm, by topping both Division I and II as well as the seniors category to frustrate the three-peat bid of Sta. Elena with 135.5 points.

The Batangas golfers set the biggest winning margin in the event of 30.5 points over Sta. Elena (104.5) which unleashed a last-day charge to bump off Riviera (101.5) from second place.

All the winning margins were eye-popping with Mt. Malarayat's 44.5 giving it a 9-point spread over Sta. Elena in Division I and won Division II by a whopping 10 points over Riviera. Mt. Malarayat's seniors squad won by just 3.5 points over Alabang.

"It was really a team effort. We didn't expect to win all three divisions, much more by such a big margin," said team captain Katy Katigbak.

Mt. Malarayat's players were Pitong Quiocho, Abe Avena, Ricky Camacho, Mike Carr, Dr. Gil Maderazo, Dr. Alejandro Ilagan, Emil Alviar and Katigbak in Group I; Chito Recto, Val Plata, Boysie Arguelles, Mark Mendoza, Carlo Ilagan, Jek Jek Mendoza, Noli Macasaet, Nilo Tapay and Cong. Boyie San Luis in Group II and Joe Mercado, Art Reyes, Atong Clemente and Toti Bantug in the seniors group.

The individual awards went to Chino Raymundo of Eastridge for the low gross with his 75-76-73-224 and Pompeyo Nolasco (219) for the low net.

Sharing the limelight was Hanson So, Sr. of Manila Southwoods who romped off with the hole-in-one prize worth P50,000 after acing No. 2 of Mt. Malarayat in the second round.

The rest of the final standings saw Eastridge wound up fourth with 92.5, Southwoods fifth 87.5, Luisita and Valley tied for sixth at 76, Forest Hills 71, Alabang 63, Canlubang 53 and Orchard 53. Wack Wack failed to complete a team and landed last.

Mt. Malarayat's Group II team won its division for three rounds in a row for the maximum 48-point tally. The Group I squad chipped in 44.5 while the seniors accounted for 43 of the team total.

Riviera and Mt. Malarayat are the two new teams this year and both teams made a good account of themselves against the veterans in the field.

The first round was hosted by Riviera, the second round by Malarayat and the third by Southwoods where the awarding were also held.

Founder's Cup lures 200 teams

TWO hundred teams will be vying for honors in the Founder's Cup, the annual member-guest invitational of the Orchard Golf and Country Club which will be held on Nov. 23-24 at the club's Palmer and Player courses.

Celebrity tandems like former cage star Rey Franco, Atoy Co, Kokoy Jimenez-Jimmy Fabregas, Dan Salvador II, Bob Horan and David Ong-Gen. Rey Acop will be joining a maximum field to be led by defending champion Nestor Sanares and his new partner.

Club officials Vicente Santos and Conrad Benitez are also seeing action in one of the biggest club invitational which is offering a prize package totaling P2.5 million topped by two Nissan cars which will be raffled off.

Taking charge of the preparations for the 2002 Founders' Cup is the organizing committee chaired by Luis Villa-Abrille and also composed of Gerry Perez, Dan Salvador III, Peter Clark, Buboy Garovillo and Nila Patricio together with the support of club manager Tom Clemente, golf director Andy Maglipon and assistant golf manager Francis Montellana.

Ardinas putting winners

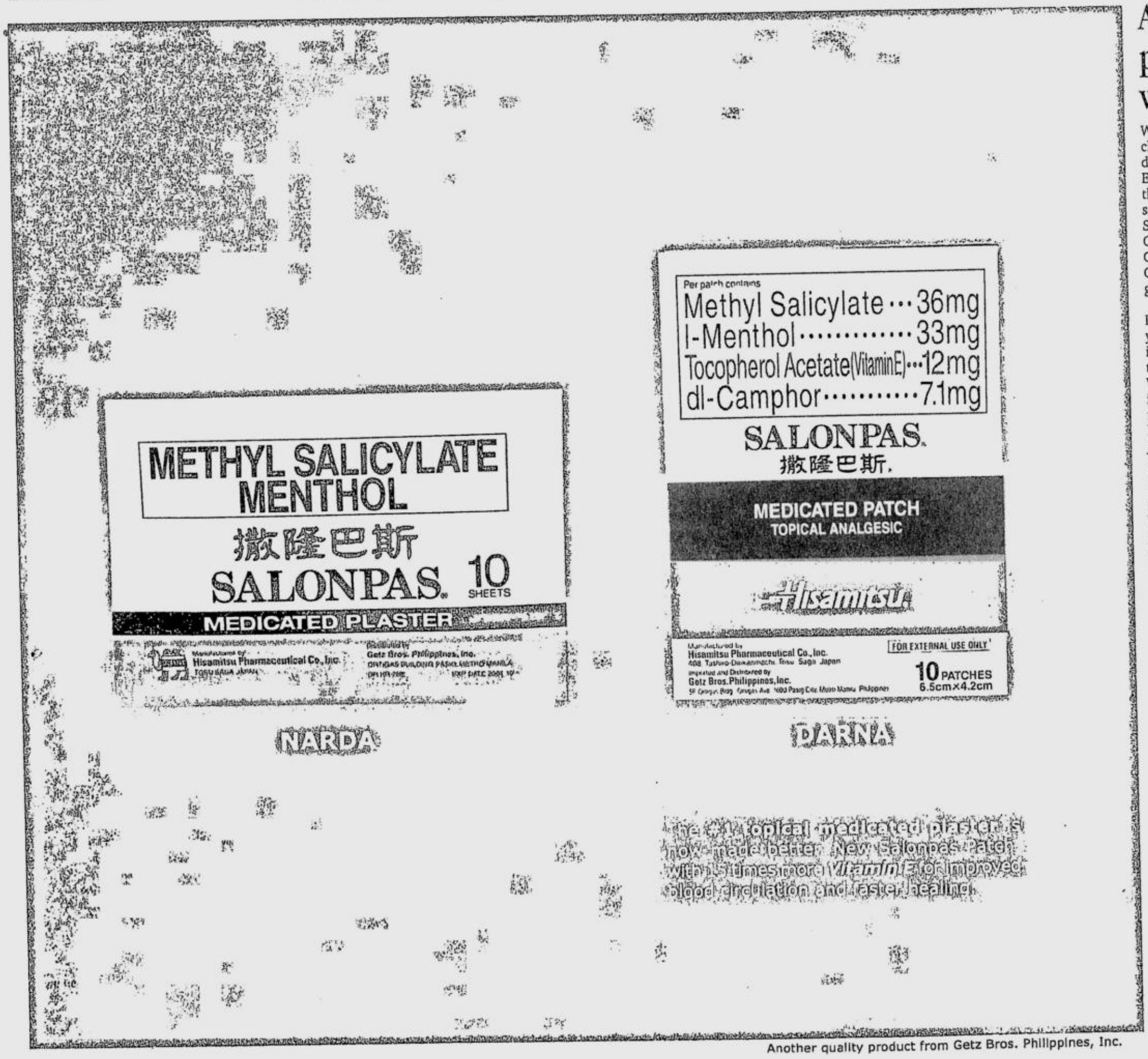
WORLD jungolf champion Dottie Ardina and her father Ed led the winners in the just-concluded second leg of the Samsung Putting Challenge at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

The eight-year-old Dottie, who is the year's biggest athletic achievers for her two victories (Junior World and US Kids) in America, was a junior division winner like Jose Esteban, joining eight other qualifiers for next year's grand finals.

Four expatriates joined the ranks of winners with Charles Brewer, Tony Robbins and Yukio Kunimura making it in the men's class and Hosoi Masahiro joining the elder Ardina as seniors titlists.

It was Kunimura who came up with the low score of 14 putts in the tourney which is part of a three-in-one event dubbed as the Samsung DigitAll Golf Challenge. Sponsors are TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Maxfli, Fila, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers. Wave 89.1 City Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, KillerBee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

The other qualifiers are Chester Calpotura (men's) and Tannie Mendoza and Lucy Landicho in the ladies class.



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SMB-MARHO BREEDERS' CUP

Free Wind, Lady Magallanes triumph

By Edwin Villanueva

FREE Wind and Lady Magallanes pulled off convincing wins in ruling the first two majors of the 7th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup Championships yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Delighting *llamadistas,* Free Wind topped the 3-Year-Old Colts with relative ease, while Lady Magallanes struggled down the stretch before prevailing in the Juvenile Fillies.

"Mahusay na kabayo. Sana magtuluy-tuloy na maganda ang kundisyon," said Free Wind's rider Jeffril Zarate, who found no need to use the stick in the one-mile event.

Free Wind's owner Robert Liong bagged P600,000, the same amount Rhodora Espinocilla got for Lady Magallanes' victory.

Free Wind (Principality-All Pleasant) crossed the line six lengths clear of Al Baraq, with Señor Raggaas and River Bee coming in third and fourth, respectively. The other entry, Bidang Bida, had to be restrained after injuring his leg.

Lady Magallanes (Handaan-Gaiety Girl) turned back Noor in the final straight, winning by two lengths under punishment from Jeffrey Ladiana.

Hermie Esguerra's favored bet Tatler Cover finished only third, just a head behind Noor. Tora Tora was fourth, while Napa Valley brought up the rear.

Arriba King shared the day's honors, beating defending champion Be Quiet in the Sprint to pocket P300,000.

The P7-million racefest, organized by the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners headed by Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, closes its curtains today with three more championships to be disputed.

Champion galloper Wind Blown is heavily favored to win the Classic, What A Spell and Golden Ballet are tipped in the 3-Year-Old Fillies, while a three-way fight among Security Master, Diktador and High Octane is expected in the Juvenile Colts.

Wind Blown, to be handled by star jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr., is aiming to become the first repeat winner in the Breeders' Cup Classic.

Out to stop him in the 2,050-meter race are Staunch Ally, Lyonnais and Hyperbid.

Racing at its best

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

NO releasing of doves nor marching down the track by its members.

Just non-stop racing at its best would be served when Marho, the country's premiere horse racing group, presents the final three of its six explosive championships in the 7th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup today.

And because local turfdom's most famous galloper, Wind Blown, is seeing action, expect another mammoth crowd to troop to the Santa Ana Park.

Wind Blown is gunning for a back-to-back win in the Classic. He'd be the first to do so in the history of the racefest if he beats Staunch Ally, Lyonnais and Hyperbid in the 7 p. m. contest to be disputed over 2,050 meters.

Also keenly awaited is the Juvenile Colts collision among Security Master, Diktador and High Octane, three of the horses expected to figure prominently in the Triple Crown next year. But the 1,500-meter contest may also favor Reigns Supreme or Success Story if the heavyweights crowd each other out in the early going.

Rounding out today's Big 3 is the 3-Year-Old Fillies where Golden Ballet is hoping to get back at What A Spell, the fleet-footed filly who stole the show in the recent Sampaguita Stakes.

"Halina po kayo sa Santa Ana *at panoorin ang* 7th SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup. *Para po sa mga karerista at lahat ng tumatangkilik sa* local racing *ang pakarerang ito,"* said Putch Puyat, Marho chief and founder of the Philippine Breeders' Cup series.

For giving them a magnificent racing card like the Breeders' Cup, the *bayang karerista* is giving Puyat and his fellow Marho men the thumbs-up sign.

See you all at the Park!

***

The 7th SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup is coming on the heels of another highly successful affair--the 3rd Philtobo Mitra Cup Championships.

For *kareristas,* only Marho and Philtobo racing festivals exist. A newly-formed group tried to hold one recently at the other racetrack but it flopped big time, my Silip Boy said, because it was badly organized.

***

Many were wondering why Rose of Victory, Koko Cayco's undefeated filly, wasn't included in the Breeders' Cup Premium Race for Imports today.

We learned that the Early Hours Stakes champion has been retired for breeding purposes after sustaining a bone chip injury in her left foreknee.

More on "The Rose" next week.

Racing Tips

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Aya's Star 2. Cheese Laffongga 3. Super Spoiled
Race 2--1. Easy Rider 2. Real McCoy 3. Angela's Storm
Race 3--1. Robyn Always 2. Sealed With A Kiss 3. Terminal Bound 4. Gentleman's Copy
Race 4--1. Speed Machine 2. Doña Gelay 3. Red Strip
Race 5--1. San Diego Force 2. Mighty Strong 3. Silver Story 4. Always Florence
Race 6--1. Reigns Supreme/High Octane 2. Security Master 3. Diktador
Race 7--1. Count Your Blessings 2. Letshaveaparty 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Summit Power 5. Millennium Man
Race 8--1. Golden Ballet 2. What A Spell
Race 9--1. Cat's Bells/Triregal 2. Sunny Contender 3. Buena Sera 4. Cosanne
Race 10--1. Spinning Bullet 2. Gintong Lahi 3. Regal Mischief 4. Adam's Call 5. Terrific/Bumper to Bumper
Race 11--1. Wind Blown 2. Hyperbid
Race 12--1. Anytime Anywhere 2. College Gem 3. Haz It All 4. Picture Perfect 5. Gimme A Ring
Race 13--1. Hacker 2. Bull Rider 3. Mrs. Big 4. Master Ijhay 5. District Three
Race 14--1. Sumasagitsit 2. Court General 3. Super Dancer 4. Miguel's Pet 5. God Is Good 6. Love Song

Asian Duathlon on

SUBIC, ZAMBALES-Some 300 participants, including 30 foreign entries and the country's leading duathletes will vie for honors as the 2nd Asian Duathlon Championship starts today at the Subic Bay Freeport here.

George Vilog, the reigning national champion, will lead a determined Filipino contingent in this event which includes 10K run, 40K bike, and another 5K run.

The event is sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Speedo, Nestle Power Bar, Informatics Holding Phils, RELIV Philippines, 105.1 FM Crossover, Enervon, Gerry's Grill, and Subic International Hotel.

Defending men's champion Daniel Lee of Hong Kong will not be around to defend his men's title and focus will be on Megumi Shigaki of Japan, who is gunning for her second straight crown in the distaff side.

Shigaki, 28, finished seventh in the 2001 Long Distance World Championship, and 14th in the recent World Cup. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Morales vs Ayala today

TWO of the most exciting fighters battle for the vacant WBC featherweight title at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas today when former champion Erik Morales takes on two-time world champion Paulie Ayala in a blockbuster fight card titled "Never Surrender."

Clarence "Bones" Adams clashes with Guty Espadas Jr., the conqueror of Luisito Espinosa, in a battle of two former world champions in the undercard.

Watching the coverage of "Never Surrender" by Viva Sports over IBC-13 will be IBF junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao. His business manager, Rod Nazario, said yesterday that Pacquiao "wants to challenge the winner of the Morales-Ayala fight just like he challenged Marco Antonio Barrera after Barrera defeated Johnny Tapia."

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Wasabi
Dodgers

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FPH Giants
Texas Rangers
FFC Athletics
Nestle Sluggers
FSP Diamondbacks
Colgate

GIRLS BIG LEAGUE
Angels
Popeye's
Shakey's
Quezon City

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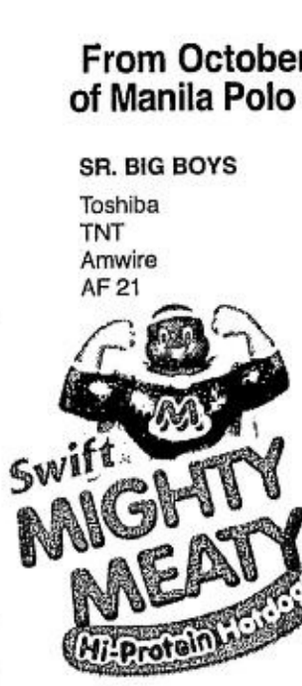

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3. Text in REG<space>name<space>address to 2994 to join the promo. You will then be assigned one (1) electronic raffle entry number. Every Globe Prepaid SIM activated within the promo period that texts in to 2994 will receive only one (1) raffle entry number.
4. Every text message sent to 2994 will only be charged P1.00.
5. Globe will give away Kodak KB10 camera packages (with 1 box Kodak Max Exp 24-shot film and 2 pcs. AA battery) and Kodak Max HQ One-Time Use (24-shot) cameras daily. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
6. From the database of raffle entries, Globe will then randomly draw 1,000 winners of Kodak cameras daily thru an electronic randomizer. All subscribers who have activated within the promo period and have registered thru 2994 will be included in the raffle.
7. Daily Draws will be held Mondays through Fridays (except Saturdays, Sundays & holidays) starting November 18, 2002 to January 2, 2003 every 4 p.m. at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, corner Pioneer and Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City. Activations made after 12 m.n. will be included in the following draw date. If a draw date falls on a holiday, the draw will be conducted on the next working day.
8. A participant can win only once during the promo period. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she will receive the bigger prize.
9. The winning raffle entry for the daily draw is disqualified in the succeeding daily draws.
10. Winners will be informed via text broadcast from Globe Infocast: 2977 if they won in the daily draw.
11. Winners can claim prize by presenting their Text coupon from 2977 at any of the participating Kodak Express/ Kamerawerld/ Island Photo outlets nationwide. Globe and Kodak will conduct further validation and verification before awarding the prize.
12. Winners who do not claim their prize within 14 days of winning text notification from Globe Infocast: 2977 will receive registered mail from Globe Telecom, informing them that they have won.
13. Redemption of prizes shall be within sixty (60) days from receipt of the registered mail. If the prize is not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Globe Telecom with prior approval of DTI. Redemption period is from November 21, 2002 until sixty (60) days thereafter.
14. Employees of Globe Telecom, Kodak Philippines, Harrison Communications, Inc., Ogilvy and Mather Philippines, and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
15. Subscribers of Touch Mobile are not included in the promotion.

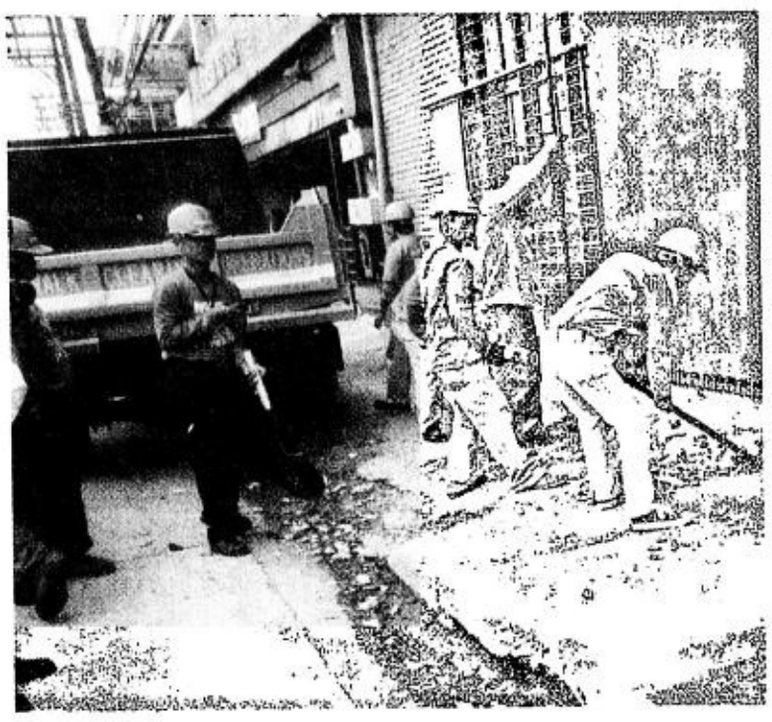
How to win P 250,000!

1. All new Globe Prepaid Subscribers who made their first call within the promo period are also entitled to join the "CAPTURE A G MOMENT" promo.
2. Take a picture that captures a special moment with your family, friends and your Globe Handyphone. It can be funny, crazy or heartwarming.
3. Write your name, address, Globe Handyphone number, signature and the G moment at the back of your photo. Size of photo should be 4R and should be developed using Kodak paper. The G moment is a word or phrase that defines your special moment with Globe. Entries must be original, i.e. never made public in any form, derived from any medium nor submitted simultaneously for other competitions. The winning entry will become a property of Globe Telecom.

4. Place your entry inside a white legal envelope and mail to: "Capture a G moment Promo" c/o Harrison Communications, Inc., 4/F First Life Bldg. Salcedo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.
5. Only entries received on or before December 31, 2002 will be qualified to join the contest.
6. Judging will be on January 3, 2003, 4 p.m. at the Harrison Communications office.
7. Criteria for judging are:
   a. Creativity 25% – use of Globe Handyphone in an imaginative/ creative way
   b. Uniqueness of moment 25% – capturing a special moment of human connection
   c. Emotional Content 25% – portrays an inspiring/ moving emotion
   d. G moment 25% – word/ phrase that defines your special moment with Globe
8. One winner of P 250,000 (tax-free) will be chosen by Globe representatives and will be notified via a call through his/her Globe Handyphone to give information on how to claim the prize. In case he/she cannot be contacted by phone, he/she will be notified through registered mail.
9. Winner can claim prize, within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail, at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, corner Pioneer and Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of a valid I.D.
10. Employees of Globe Telecom, Kodak Philippines, Harrison Communications, Inc., Ogilvy and Mather Philippines and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Manila to give tax deductions to green-thumbed residents /A26



MMDA men, such as those shown here dismantling obstructions in Pasay City, will be getting extra pay for going up against vengeful vendors affected by Bayani Fernando's no-nonsense drive to clear the sidewalks.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Hazard pay for MDDA men in sidewalk clearing drive

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MEN at the front lines of the Metro Manila Development Authority's sidewalk clearing drive will be given hazard pay for the risks they face in doing their job.

The Metro Manila Council has passed a resolution authorizing the MMDA to give a compensation premium to all MMDA personnel involved in the clearing operations, the monitoring and survey of illegal structures, and other related field operations.

"The activities involved pose bodily harm and risks or danger to health and safety from defiant and violent vendors armed with deadly weapons," the council noted in the resolution.

Often, the MMDA men conducting sidewalk clearing operations have to deal with disgruntled vendors affected by the drive, said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

He related how an MMDA man had to be hospitalized after a bottle hit him in the face.

Fernando also said there have been instances when his men have been chased by bolo-wielding vendors.

According to Fernando, vendors usually would throw stones and vegetables at MMDA personnel and their vehicles. He cited how the windows of the MMDA's new buses have all been damaged during the clearing operations because of the stone-throwers.

HAZARD/ A26

Quizon to go on rehab

By Alcuin Papa

HE DID it in the name of his father.

Rolly Quizon, son of top comedian Dolphy, yesterday agreed to subject himself to drug rehabilitation after he was released from police custody.

According to Central Police District Director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, Quizon signed an agreement to undergo rehabilitation "for the sake of his father and his peace of mind."

Quizon was arrested last Thursday reportedly for taking part in a shabu session in Quezon City.

"He (Quizon) admitted to me that from time to time he used drugs, but he insisted he was not a drug dependent," Castro told the INQUIRER. "He agreed to my offer for rehab. His whole family also agreed."

Castro said he had Quizon released after the laboratory tests on the shabu paraphernalia recovered from Quizon had yielded negative results.

Also released were Bernie Nabong, 50, of Project 8, Quezon City; and Jun Lagman, 25, of Bago Bantay, Quezon City. The two were arrested along with Quizon during a police raid on Lagman's residence last Thursday.

"(The tests on paraphernalia) were our only hope in pinning them down," Castro said.

Castro turned over custody of Quizon, a former mainstay of the hit sitcom "John and Marsha," to his brother, Rodolfo Quizon Jr. "The brother called up their father (Dolphy) and they agreed to my terms," Castro said.

The Central Police District's Drug Enforcement Unit is still waiting for the results of the drug tests on the three suspects from the national police's Crime Laboratory.

Castro said test results may prove "incon-

QUIZON/ A26

Solons urged to go easy on 'poor man's taxi'

By Volt Contreras

PLEASE, go easy on the "poor man's taxi."

Tricycle operators and drivers yesterday made this appeal to authorities, particularly Bayani Fernando of the Metro Manila Development Authority, who are bent on implementing stiff smoke emission tests under the Clean Air Act.

The Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association-Pilipinas (Todap) said that thousands of its members who still use "2-stroke" tricycle models are likely to be denied franchises to operate because their tricycle units will surely fail the emission tests.

In a press forum in Quezon City, Todap Vice President Severino Del Rosario hit MMDA Resolution 02-36 which called on local government units to refrain from issuing tricycle franchises to operators of 2-stroke models in line with the Clean Air Act.

Del Rosario warned of mass unemployment among drivers nationwide if 2-stroke operators would be forced to give up their units.

He said Todap is asking the MMDA and the Land Transportation Office for a more a manageable "phaseout period of three to five years" for 2-stroke models.

On a positive note, he said, Todap recently got the LTO to agree to a three-month moratorium on smoke emission tests for tricycles, starting last Oct. 9 up to Jan. 2 next year.

It is now asking LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso to extend that moratorium by six to 12 months, and also suspend during that period the "no-franchise" policy for 2-stroke models.

In Metro Manila alone, there are around 400,000 people who depend on tricycles for their livelihood, while 8 to 10 million passengers rely on this mode of transport daily, he said.

"We are just victims of a product," Del Rosario said. "The tricycle sector was also never consulted or invited to Congress during deliberations on the Clean Air Act."

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Manila to give tax deductions to green-thumbed residents

By Jerome Aning

GROWING plants at home or maintaining them in the office might soon pay off for plant lovers in Manila after a councilor proposed an ordinance giving them a tax break.

The ordinance, authored by 4th district Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing, proposes to grant households and business establishments a P10 tax deduction for each ornamental plant, shrub or tree that they maintain.

Bagatsing said the deductions would encourage more residents to participate in the government's "clean and green" campaign.

He said the city of Chicago in the United States has a similar ordinance and it has been well-received and successfully implemented by residents.

Based on the proposed ordinance, the tax deduction for residents would de credited against the annual ad valorem taxes for their properties.

For business firm owners, the deductions would be credited to their business or professional taxes.

But the total amount of tax deducted should not be more than 50 percent of any assessed tax on the real property, business or profession concerned.

Persons who live on selling plants, such as vegetable and fruit tree seedlings, orchid and bonsai cuttings, will not be covered by the ordinance.

The deductions will also not be given to tenants of houses or offices unless they themselves had placed the plants on the property.

Bagatsing said that anyone who makes a false statement for the purpose of enjoying the deductions will be fined from P5,000 to P10,000.

This is in addition to other penalties that may be imposed under existing laws, such as those against falsification of public documents.

Muslims denounce police crackdown

By Volt Contreras

MUSLIM activists and families affected by the government's crackdown on suspected terrorist cells yesterday condemned the latest series of "illegal" searches and arrests carried out by police.

They accused the Macapagal administration of engendering "Islamopobia" among the people in its desperate need to produce "fall guys" to be paraded before media.

Nurmina Limpangan, 14, recounted how members of the national police's Special Weapons and Tactics Unit held her at gunpoint when they stormed her house in Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, last Nov. 13.

She said PNP-SWAT men and members of the National Bureau of Intelligence practically turned their house inside out "in search of something."

"But my real fear then was that they would plant evidence to be used against us later," Limpangan said.

"Where else can innocent people go?" asked Nurmina's mother, Tarhata, a former domestic helper in Kuwait who lost her job when the Gulf War broke out.

Mother and daughter were among those presented yesterday by the Moro-Christian People's Alliance at the weekly Cypress media forum.

"Just so President Macapagal can present somebody before the press, the Muslim community, even in our holy month of Ramadan, is being subjected to this kind of *pambabastos* (indignity)," said MCPA Secretary General Amirah Ali Lidasan.

The MCPA also cited the cases of Mohaliddin Hassan, Argie Adam, and Hassan's sister-in-law, Maimona Mugawan, who upon arrival from Cotabato last Wednesday, were arrested as suspected MILF members linked to last month's bus explosion on Edsa-Balintawak.

Brothers face off vendors in QC; 1 dead

BROTHERS Dino and Jonathan Taton, both of Luzon Avenue, Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, tried to face off vengeful vendors early yesterday morning. Dino was killed while his brother was critically injured, police said.

According to the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit, a drunken Dino, 20, was walking home on Luzon Avenue at around 2 a.m. when he grabbed one of the chicken parts being sold by suspects Ricardo Allamorin and a certain "Pando," both of Garcia Heights, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Upset, Pando grabbed a bladed weapon and stabbed Dino, who managed to stagger home, police said.

When Jonathan, 25, saw what happened to his brother, he immediately went to the stall where Pando worked as a helper and began throwing stones, police said.

Allamorin, who owns the stall, saw what was happening and shot Jonathan.

Dino died on the way to the East Avenue Medical Center, police said. His brother is in the same hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound in the face.

Alcuin Papa

6 ex-PAOCTF men probed for screwing up 2000 drug case

SIX Members of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, including fugitive police officer Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, were ordered investigated for allegedly botching up the trial of five suspects caught with 124 kilograms of shabu in April 2000.

In a memorandum, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina gave Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane 72 hours to investigate Mancao, Insp. Isagani Genabe, Supt. Dennis Agustin, Insp. Vicente Arnado, SPO3 Alfred Clemente and SPO1 Jose Danilo Condez, for failing to testify in court, which led to the release of the five suspects, who are out on bail.

If the police officers fail to explain their absence, criminal and administrative charges would be filed against them, Lina said.

"If indeed these reports are true, these PAOCTF agents must be made to answer for their failure to testify against the suspects, particularly since the case also involved policemen caught transporting 124 kilos of illegal drugs," said Lina. *Leila Salaverria*

Garbage trucks to be fitted with bells, like ice cream carts

By Leila Salaverria

PRETTY soon, the sound of a bell ringing in the street may signal the arrival, not of an ice cream cart, but a garbage truck.

The Metro Manila Council has recently passed a resolution urging local government units to require garbage contractors in their area to equip garbage trucks with 8-inch diameter bells to serve as warning devices.

"Proper collection, disposal and management of garbage will be more successful if there is a warning device to be utilized by garbage collectors to notify residents in advance that the garbage truck is already in the vicinity," the council noted.

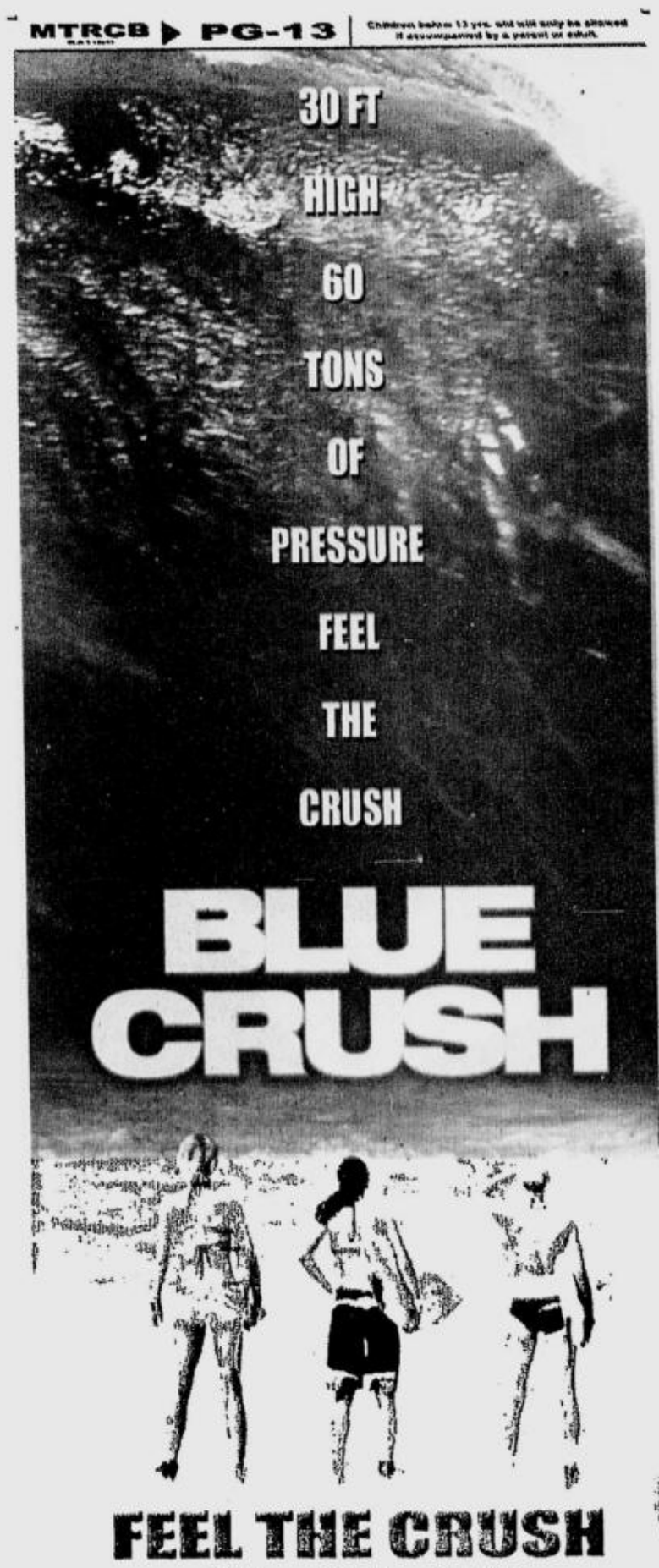
Contractors who would not follow the rule would face sanctions.

The move to put bells on all garbage trucks in the metropolis is in line with the Metro Manila Development Authority's resolution "urging LGUs to enact an ordinance adopting guidelines and procedures for a Unified Approach on Solid Waste Management."

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has said that the unified garbage scheme would eliminate the heaps of garbage that appear on the streets of Metro Manila.

Under the scheme, household residents and establishment owners would be asked to bring out their trash only on the garbage collection day and put it only in front of their homes or buildings, and the trucks would collect the trash from there.

If a street is too narrow for the garbage truck to pass through, the garbage collectors would have to walk to the houses or buildings, get the garbage bags and then bring these to the truck. This way, residents won't have to put their trash on street corners, Fernando said.



THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 17, 2002
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Pro 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

The woman of character, where is she to be found? She is more precious than any jewel.

Her husband has complete confidence in her; she will be of great benefit to him.

She brings him only good and not evil, all the days of her life.

She has obtained wool and flax, and works them with skillful hands.

She puts her hand to the distaff and her fingers hold the spindle.

She reaches out her hand to the helpless and gives to the poor.

Charm is deceptive and beauty useless; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

May she enjoy the fruits of her labor and may all praise her for her works.

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:1-6

Brothers and sisters, you do not need anyone to write to you about the delay and the appointed time for these events. You know that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people feel secure and at peace, the disaster will suddenly come upon them as the birth pangs of a woman in labor, and they will not escape.

But you, beloved, are not in darkness; so that day will not surprise you like a thief. All of you are citizens of the light and the day; we do not belong to night and darkness. Let us not, therefore, sleep as others do, but remain alert and sober.

Gospel: Mt 25:14-30 (or Mt 25:14-15, 19-20)

Jesus told this parable to his disciples, "Imagine someone who, before going abroad, summoned his servants to entrust his property to them. He gave five talents of silver to one, then two to another, and one to a third, each one according to his ability; and he went away.

He who received five talents went at once to do business with the money and gained another five. The one who received two did the same and gained another two. But the one with one talent dug a hole and hid his master's money.

After a long time, the master of those servants returned and asked for a reckoning. The one who received five talents came with another five talents, saying: 'Lord, you entrusted me with five talents, but see I have gained five more with them.' The master answered: 'Very well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in a few things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had two talents came and said: 'Lord, you entrusted me with two talents; I have two more which I gained with them.' The master said: 'Well, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in little things, I will entrust you with much more. Come and share the joy of your master.'

Finally, the one who had received a talent came and said: 'Master, I know that you are an exacting man. You reap what you have not sown and gather what you have not invested. I was afraid, so I hid your money in the ground. Here, take what is yours.' But his master replied: 'Wicked and worthless servant, you know that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not invested. Then you should have deposited my money in the bank, and you would have given it back to me with interest on my return.

Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who are unproductive, even what they have will be taken from them. As for that useless servant, throw him out into the dark where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Commentary

"Your kingdom come" we pray often. But the coming of the Reign is not external to us. From the moment we were born our whole being is being prepared for its coming. Our personal history has for its final meaning its preparation for the Reign. As we develop we become more human in the exercise of our mind, heart and freedom and the development of the uniqueness of ourselves with all our talents and idiosyncrasies. In other words, we need to develop within ourselves the coming of the Reign. In a true sense we create our true destiny. It is not an exclusive effort. We need to live in the community of persons and in our environment. We need God to be ourselves. Then we take responsibility for our lives. We receive everything from God, but it is the uniqueness of the person to actively promote one's own growth and being. The glory of God is the human being fully alive.

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ZONTA MANILA I
Manila I Zontians recently celebrated the Zonta United Nations Day. At the bash are (seated from left): Julie Jalbuena, Dory Zalamea, Baby de Jesus, Letty Calma, Judy Bacosa, a guest, and Meding Arellano. Standing from left are: Ester Vibal, Toni Lingad, Nonie Basilio, President gina Geraldez, Vice Area I Director Baby Perez Sison, Lulu Castaneda and a guest.

Hazard pay for MDDA ...

From page A0

Tension is expected to increase after Fernando declared that the clearing operations will not stop, and will even intensify, during the holidays.

Urban poor groups have been asking Fernando to let the vendors peddle their wares during the holiday rush, or to engage in a dialogue with the vendors to work out a compromise, both of which the MMDA Chair rejected.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the MMDA is processing the necessary papers so that the personnel can get their hazard pay before the end of the year.

Shortly after stepping in as MMDA chair, Fernando initiated a hard-nosed sidewalk clearing campaign to restore order and minimize traffic in the streets.

Sidewalk vendors have opposed the campaign, and called Fernando "anti-poor" and "Hitler-like."

Quizon to go on rehab

From page A25

clusive."

"If the tests turned out to be positive, what could we charge them with?" he asked. "The tests might say they have traces of shabu in their bodies, but when did they take the drugs? This cannot be the basis for any case we may file against them, especially after the paraphernalia recovered (from the suspects) have already tested negative," Castro explained.

He added that narcotics agents will still monitor the activities of the men.

Quizon and the two men are each facing six years in jail for illegal drug possession.

Quizon was arrested in Bago Bantay last Thursday after a woman complained to SPO4 Dante Yang and Rudy Quilban that her husband had attacked her and that he was then taking illegal drugs at Lagman's house.

The two policemen immediately proceeded to the house and allegedly caught Quizon and the two men in the act of taking shabu.

Recovered from the suspects were three plastic sachets said to contain shabu and drug paraphernalia.

Quizon had told police that he was only in the area to visit a friend.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Jordan giving Viva a hard time'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"JORDAN is slowly becoming hard-headed. He's giving Viva a difficult time."

A Viva Films executive, who asked not to be identified, was talking about the company's exclusive talent, Power Boy Jordan Herrera.

So soon after last week's news reports of his alleged involvement in a case of estafa, the new actor is in hot water again. This time, Viva Films is questioning him for appearing in TV shows and live performances without its permission.

Viva is also disappointed with Jordan for causing the delay of the filming of "Sukdulan," his new movie opposite Angelu de Leon.

Jordan's contract with Viva states that he shall not accept any acting, TV, radio, road show or recording engagements without prior written consent from Viva, the executive told the INQUIRER Friday afternoon.

"But he keeps appearing on TV and saying yes to engagements without Viva's consent," the executive said. "We would have tolerated that if only he gave priority to his commitments with Viva."

The executive said Jordan went to the Viva office in Quezon City last Oct. 25 to sign what the executive called a general call slip. The slip said Jordan agreed to shoot for "Sukdulan" for three months starting this month.

"He was supposed to start shooting for the movie 15 days ago," the executive said. "But up to now, he has not showed up even for the two-day workshop we requested him to attend."

Jordan's excuse, the executive said, was that he had to attend to some emergency.

The executive said Viva recently met with ABS-CBN representatives to talk about two Channel 2 programs that feature Jordan. The starlet appears thrice a week on "MTB" as a member of the Power Boys and twice a month in the weekly teen series "Tabing Ilog."

Both Viva and ABS-CBN agreed not to allow Jordan to appear in any more programs without Viva's permission, the Viva executive said.

Buboy Baril, one of Jordan's managers, denied the Viva complaint that Jordan is the cause of the delay of "Sukdulan," directed by Mac Alejandre.

Baril instead blamed the delay on Viva's changing the movie's director and some members of its cast. He said Jordan found some details of "Sukdulan's" script objectionable and requested that it be revised.

"Although we heard that they already revised the script, we're still waiting for them to send us our copy," Baril said.

He did admit that Jordan did not attend the acting workshop scheduled two weeks ago because he was busy with other commitments.

"ABS-CBN has given Jordan a very tight schedule," Baril said. "*Nahihiya na nga talaga siya sa* Viva.

"We promise to make time for the workshop soon," the manager added.

Last Nov. 13, Jacqueline Abella, owner of L. Street Billiard Productions, filed swindling charges against Jordan before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for his failure to perform in a show in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, last Oct. 30.

> His manager instead blamed the delay on Viva's changing the movie's directors and some members of the cast

Abella claimed she signed an agreement with a certain Moises Manio of FAB3 Production Inc. last Aug. 9 for Jordan's appearance and paid the latter half of the agreed P65,000 talent fee.

Baril said Jordan never agreed to appear in any show in Tuguegarao. He said Manio illegally signed the contract for Jordan and never gave any advanced payment to the young actor.

He said that if Abella did give Jordan half of his talent fee, "then that means the agent (Moises) took it all away. Jordan received nothing."

Baril said he was surprised to read news of his talent being charged with estafa and was annoyed that "Moises dragged Jordan into this mess. The poor kid was so worried."

He said they have yet to receive a copy of the complaint but they plan to talk to Abella soon to settle the issue.

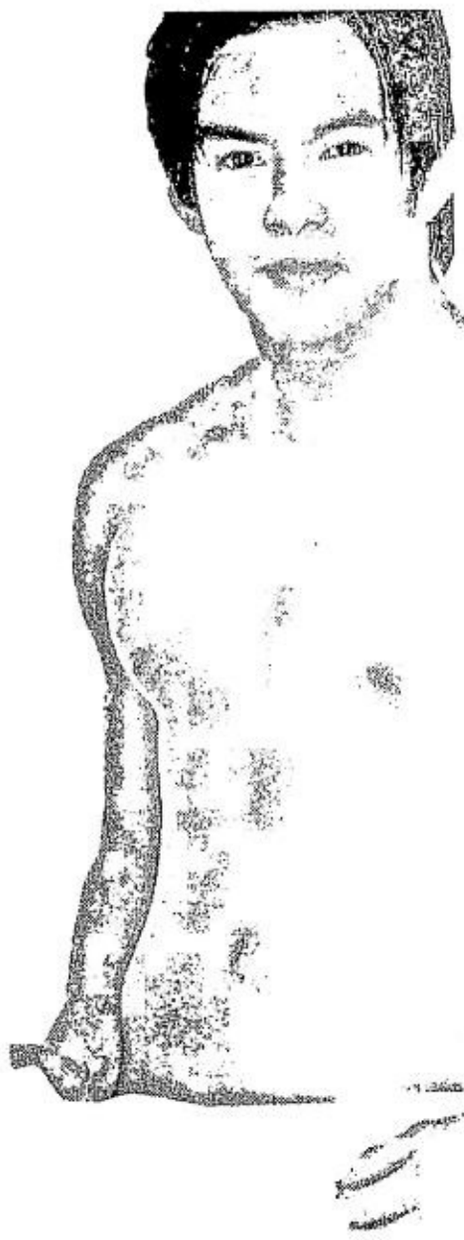
Baril has been Jordan's talent manager since February 2001. Baril said it was he who discovered Jordan (real name, Jordan Hermogenes) while the latter was working in a restaurant in Malate, Manila.

According to Baril, he had helped Jordan find work as a ramp/TV commercial model and also convinced him to audition for the Rexona deodorant commercial, which paved the way for Jordan's career in show business.

Jordan's first movie was Quark Henares' "Gamitan," where he starred with Maui Taylor and Wendel Ramos.

But even before his first movie was shown, Jordan had been accused of causing delays and for not appearing for appointments at all.

At least four people had claimed to be his managers.



"HARD-HEADED" Jordan Herrera in a publicity shot for his first movie, "Gamitan."

ANGELA BARES FOR A CAUSE

Children who need extensive medical care have an ally in sexy star Angela Velez, who lent her luscious presence in the recent lingerie show "Strictly Confidential: Hot, Wild & Sexy," at the Alegria Lounge of Holiday Inn Manila. Produced by Melanie Productions under Lany Alvarez and sponsored by Pagcor, Trust Premiere Condoms, Club Panoly Resort, Smint, NU 107 and RX 93.1, the show featured the intimate apparel designed by Boying Eustaquio, vice president of the Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers.

Hackman to get special Globe in January

LOS ANGELES—Movie star Gene Hackman is to be honored with a special Golden Globe award recognizing his contribution to Hollywood, organizers announced Thursday.

Hackman, 72, will receive the Hollywood foreign Press Association's prestigious Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 2003 Golden Globe Awards to be held on Jan. 19, 2003, fellow star Andy Garcia revealed.

The award is emblematic of Hackman's "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field" during his 38-year screen career, Garcia said in announcing the award.

Hackman has won two Oscars—for best actor in the 1971 hit "The French Connection" by William Friedkin and best supporting actor in the 1992 film "Unforgiven" by Clint Eastwood.

He has also been nominated for Academy Awards for two other roles.

The veteran actor has already received three Golden Globe statuettes—seen as the next most prestigious gong after the Oscar—for his movie work, which began in the

HACKMAN/ A28

Pops...

From page A28

no way for Maricel and I to start taping."

"Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis" will take over from the timeslot of Maricel's fantasy-comedy, "Mary the Potter" (Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., ABS-CBN), which aired its final episode last Saturday.

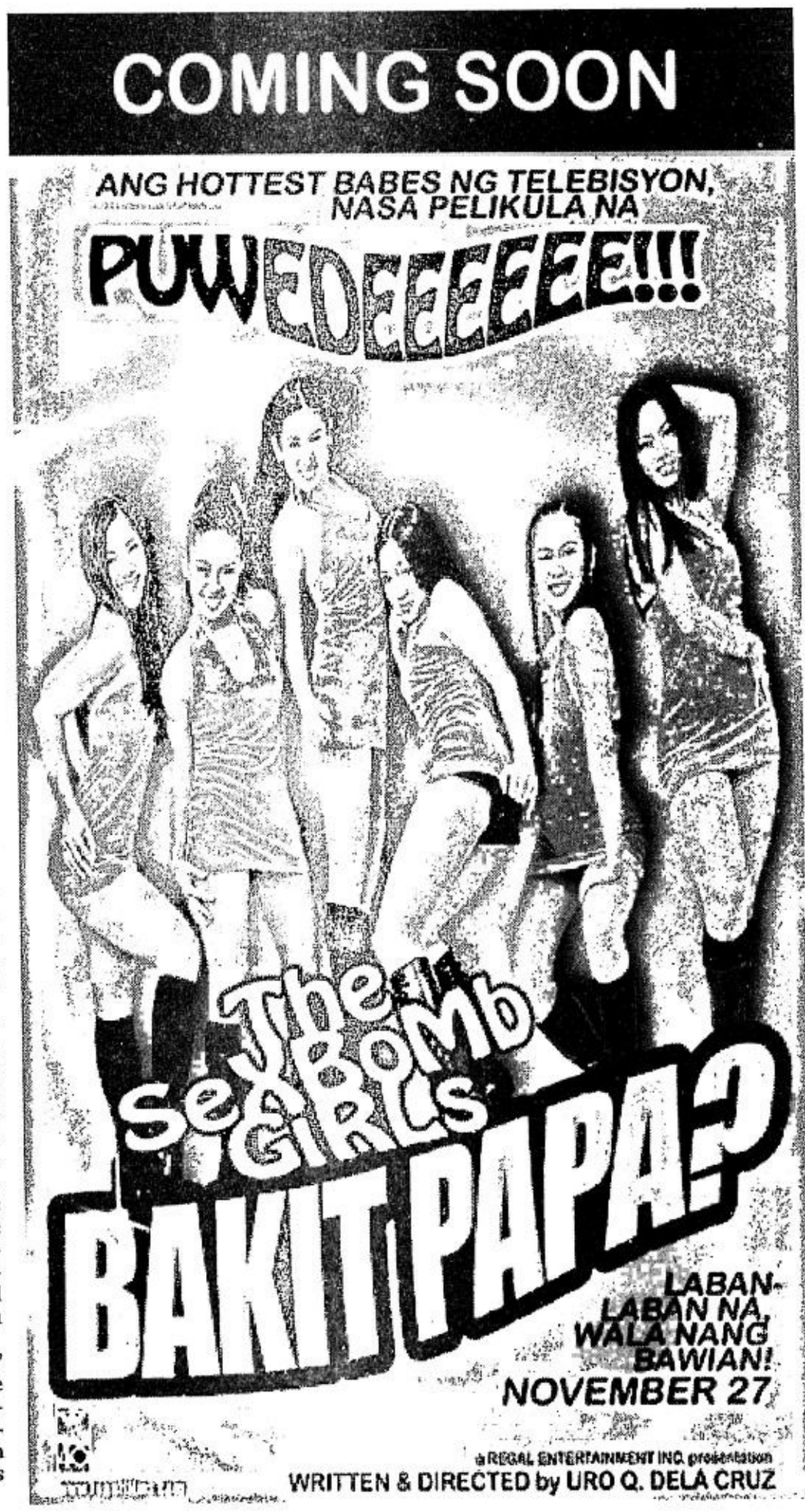
With Maricel and Cesar in the new sitcom are comedians **Dyords Javier, Smokey Manaloto, Earl Ignacio** and **Bearwin Meily**, and child star **Shaina Magdayao.**

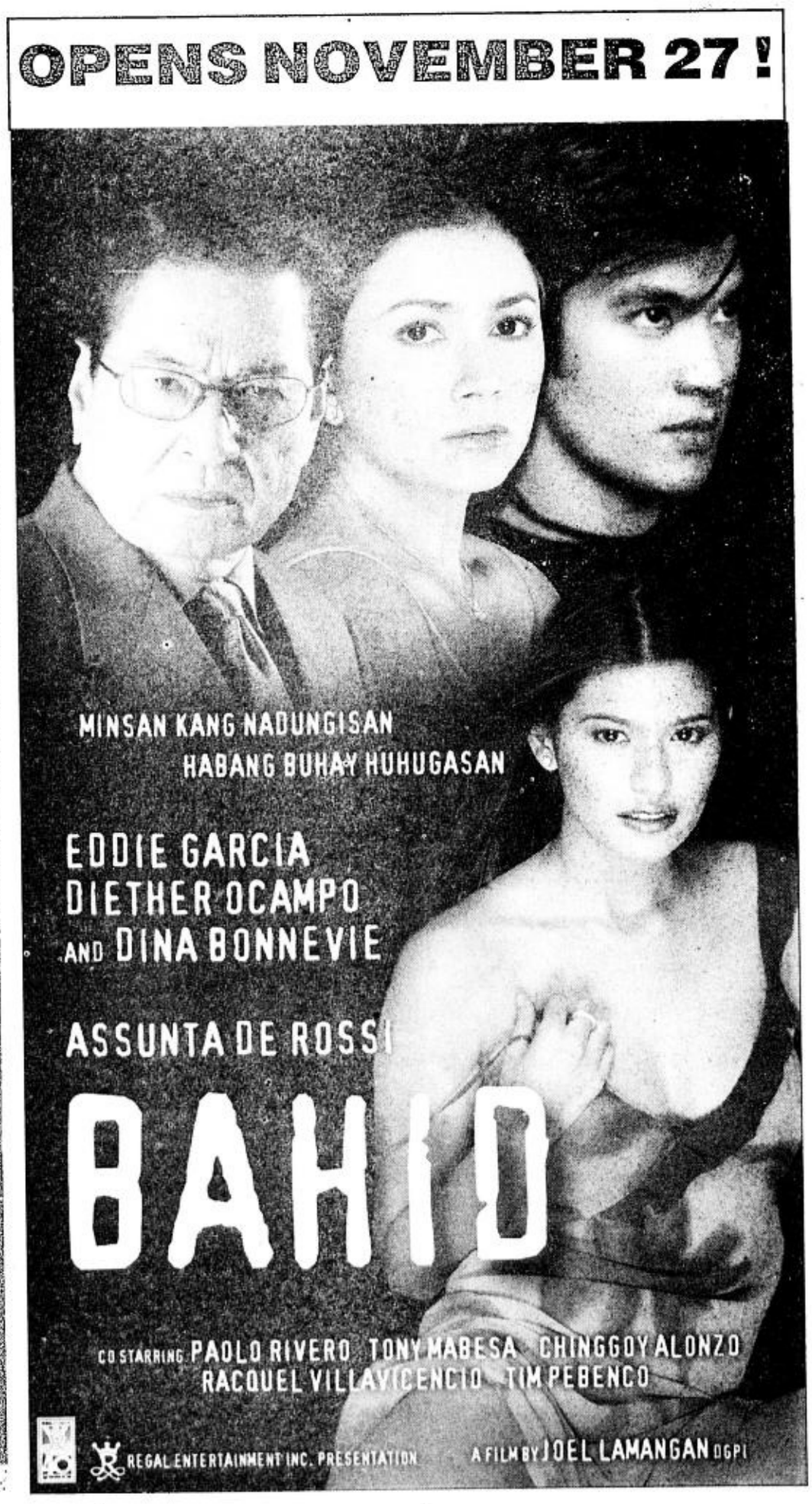
In the pilot telecast are veteran actress **Gloria Sevilla** as Buboy's aunt, **Alwyn Uytingco** as Shaina's best friend and future secret admirer, **Jenny Miller** as Mary's sexy assistant and **Huybs Azarcon** as the squatter bully Puto.

Cesar says he will concentrate on doing more local movies. He is mum about his next Hollywood film project, but he had signed a three-picture contract with Miramax Films.

"The Great Raid," directed by **John Dahl**, will have its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next May, before its international release. The crew, according to Cesar, is now filming the Manila scenes in China, with actress **Connie Nielsen** (Russell Crowe's co-star in "The Gladiator").

"The Great Raid," which recreates the battle of Cabanatuan, also stars **Benjamin Bratt, Joseph Fiennes** and **James Franco.**





Drowsy Jackson goes to court in lipstick

SANTA MARIA, California—Entertainer Michael Jackson spent a second day testifying on Thursday in a $21-million lawsuit over canceled millennium concerts, saying that he could shed little light on matters like contracts and finances because he was busy being "a visionary."

Jackson, who showed up to court four hours late and at times appeared drowsy on the witness stand, said he left most business to others so that he could concentrate on music.

"There's an overview (that I get) of what's going on financially, but I'm in the creative department," he said, speaking softly in a packed courtroom. "I'm a visionary."

One day after photographs of his odd offstage appearance set the Internet buzzing, he appeared looking much the same—with a stubbly goatee, eyeliner, red lipstick and heavily penciled eyebrows framed by a mane of shiny black hair.

Disappointment

But gone on Thursday was the Band-Aid-type plaster on his scarred nose, which had been apparently smoothed over with makeup.

He also traded his black slacks for a midnight-blue corduroy suit with an embroidered crest on the left pocket and a red, button-down shirt.

Jackson, who is being sued by German concert promoter Marcel Avram for allegedly pulling out of millennium shows in Sydney, Australia and Honolulu, Hawaii, had been expected back on the witness stand on Thursday morning.

But the self-proclaimed King of Pop mysteriously failed to appear for the morning session, to the disappointment of fans outside the courthouse and the obvious annoyance of Avram's attorneys.

Superior Court Judge Zel Canter told jurors only that they would have to return after lunch because "Mr. Jackson can't be here right now."

Jackson's attorneys refused to discuss the matter with reporters.

Canter then summoned news photographers into his chambers and said, according to one photographer, that Jackson's legal team objected to the photographers' presence on the grounds that the courtroom pictures were distracting and could be used to exploit the star in supermarket tabloids.

The judge urged the photographers to be less intrusive in their work but did not ban them from the courtroom.

When Jackson finally returned to the courthouse at Santa Maria—the central California town nearest to his Neverland Valley ranch—he appeared drowsy and lethargic. His eyes drooped and lawyers had to prompt him to answer as testimony proceeded at a snail's pace.

Skip Miller, a lawyer for Avram, sought to prove through his examination of Jackson that the performer had agreed to headline charity shows in Seoul, South Korea and Munich, Germany in 1999, followed by the the millennium concerts, then tried to renegotiate the contract before ultimately pulling out of the shows altogether.

But Miller, who said Jackson was a hostile witness, made little headway with the singer, who repeatedly said that he could not remember anything about the contract negotiations, key meetings or documents in the case.

Jackson perked up between the questions, smiling at the audience, laughing to himself and bouncing in his seat.

By the time court recessed for the day, several hundred screaming fans had gathered outside to wait for Jackson, who created a brief frenzy when he moved forward to sign autographs and the crowd surged around barriers and scrambled over parked cars to get a glimpse of the reclusive pop icon. *Reuters*

GOATEE KING. Michael says he's busy being "a visionary"

Hackman to get special Globe . . .

From page A25

1964 film "Lilith" with Warren Beatty.

He picked up Golden Globe best actor awards for "The French Connection" and for last year's "The Royal Tenenbaums" by Wes Anderson, as well as the best supporting actor gong for "Unforgiven."

Famous for his range of roles, Hackman has starred in films such as the racially-charged "Mississippi Burning" and the comedy "Young Frankenstein."

He also played the evil Lex Luthor in three of the "Superman" movies.

Earlier recipients of the Cecil B. DeMille award include Harrison Ford, Al Pacino, Barbra Streisand and Jack Nicholson. *AFP*

Clooney bottom saved

LOS ANGELES—George Clooney's bare-bottom shots in the science-fiction romance "Solaris" will no longer get the bum's rush over a ratings clash, the film's studio said.

The Motion Picture Association of America, which determines the parental-guidance designations, backed off its original R-rating for the film without forcing director Steven Soderbergh to eliminate the nudity.

After arguing their case Wednesday before the ratings board, Soderbergh and 20th Century Fox film chair Jim Gianopulous won the less-restrictive PG-13 rating, which increases the potential audience and marketing opportunities for the film.

"We just thought the material was handled in a very mature and tasteful manner and that any normal 13-year-old could more than wrap their mind around it," Soderbergh said in an interview on Thursday.

In one shot, Clooney's character slow-dances partially naked in dim light with his wife, played by Natascha McElhone.

In another, he and McElhone have a bedside discussion while undressed. *AP*

DR. SITO and Merk

Friends honor doctor with musical tribute at Merk's Bar Bistro

MANY people have asked what the secret to Dr. Sito Santayana's long life is.

His constant reply: "Listening to music and enjoying the company of those who make it."

For adding years to his life, Dr. Sito honored his friends—musicians, singers and music-lovers, and family members—in "Sito's Secret (A Tribute To My Friends In Music)," a special celebration that was recently held at Merk's Bar Bistro at Level 3 of Greenbelt 3 at the Ayala Center in Makati City.

The fun jam session kicked off late in the afternoon. It was attended by musical friends Richard Merk, Aquarela, Mon David, Bimbo Cerrudo, Pinky Marquez, Dyords Levier, Tots Tolentino, Lynn Sherman with the Ugoy-Ugoy Band, Rita Posadas, Sandra Lim, music legends Angel Peña, Bading Tuason, Verling Villapando, and other top session musicians.

Friends paid tribute to Dr. Sito with personal messages and a toast to life.

At 84, Dr. Sito remains full of vigor and vitality.

Dinner followed the jamming.

Dr. Sito Santayana as well as his music-making friends will long remember the session at Merk's.

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Pops, ex hold concerts on same day

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN **Pops Fernandez** agreed to do a birthday concert on Dec. 14, little did she know that her ex-husband, **Martin Nievera**, is also doing a major concert in a different venue on the same day. But both did not want a clash and even attempted to avoid it.

"We talked about it," Pops says. "In fairness to Martin, he was even trying to move his show. But he couldn't do anything about it."

Still, she says there will not be any problem with their separate concerts. In the first place, they are never considered rivals as concert artists. Pops will perform at the Ultra, Martin at the PICC.

"I believe we have our respective loyal followers, enough to fill both venues," Pops says. "I hope the people will be kind enough to both Martin and I not to create any controversy and make us fight because of our concerts. We're friends. I've forgiven him."

Even their sons **Robin**, 16, and **Ram**, 12, will have to watch the shows separately.

"Martin and I agreed we'll each have a son," Pops says. "*Hati rin kami.*"

Martin and Pops are both celebrating their 20th year in the business this year.

"Every year, I really hold a birthday concert on the week of my birthday," Pops says. "But this year will be doubly special because I'm also celebrating my 20th anniversary."

Pops, as a budding recording artist, did her first major concert, "Folks Meet Pops," at the Folk Arts Theater. It was a sold-out concert and she was in tears when she went on stage. Through the years, she has been holding sell-out shows and has earned the "Concert Queen" title.

Two years ago, she filled up the Ultra in her "Shindig" concert, which had a repeat. She was the first to stage two major shows in the same venue in the same year.

Her forthcoming show at the Ultra on Dec. 14 is not just an extravaganza of dance tunes but is also a fashion event. Pops will have more than eight costume changes, with outfits to be created by **Maxie Cinco, Ariel Agasang** and **Steve de Leon**. She will wear accessories from her own Pipay fashion line.

"The show will be loaded with production numbers," she offers.

Stage director is **Maribeth Bichara**; TV director is **Romy Veron**.

Pops, who hosts the Sunday noontime show "Asap" and the daily program "Morning Girls" (with **Zsa Zsa Padilla** and **Carmina Villaroel**), is so focused on her career, even at the expense of her personal happiness. With no one special in her life at the moment, she says she gets her glow from her inner peace and love for her work.

MONTANO

Cesar back home

AFTER five months of filming "The Great Raid" for Miramax in the Gold Coast in Australia, **Cesar Montano** is back.

"It was an experience being part of a Hollywood production, but I miss my friends here and even the intrigues," Cesar said.

The actor is even leaner than the last time he came home from Australia. From 180 pounds, he's now down to 155.

"We always shot for 12 hours a day," he recalled. "Sometimes our call time was as early as 4 a.m. But at 4 p.m., we would wrap up.

"I worked with a very professional team. Everything was modern. The condition and the equipment were all first-world. I couldn't help but feel bad when it comes to making a movie here."

Cesar returned to the country last week with his wife **Sunshine Cruz**, who kept him company in Australia, and their one-year-old daughter **Angelina Isabel**.

Cesar is in a new ABS-CBN sitcom, "Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis," which reunites him with his erstwhile sitcom co-star **Maricel Soriano**. They previously starred in "Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis," also on ABS-CBN.

"Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis" continues where Maricel and Cesar's old sitcom left off. After going abroad to seek greener pastures, the Magtanggol couple is back and more financially stable. They pooled their money to start their own catering business so Buboy no longer has to risk his life as a policeman.

"The sitcom was supposed to start early this year after 'Kaya ni Mister' ended," Cesar said. "But then, the Miramax offer came and I had to leave, so there was

POPS/ A27

FERNANDEZ. Not competing

Martin starts mall tour for new album

NIEVERA

MARTIN Nievera celebrates his 20th year in the industry with a week-long tour of SM malls all over the country, performing live and signing copies of his latest CD album, "Chasing Time," from PolyEast Records of MCA Universal Inc.

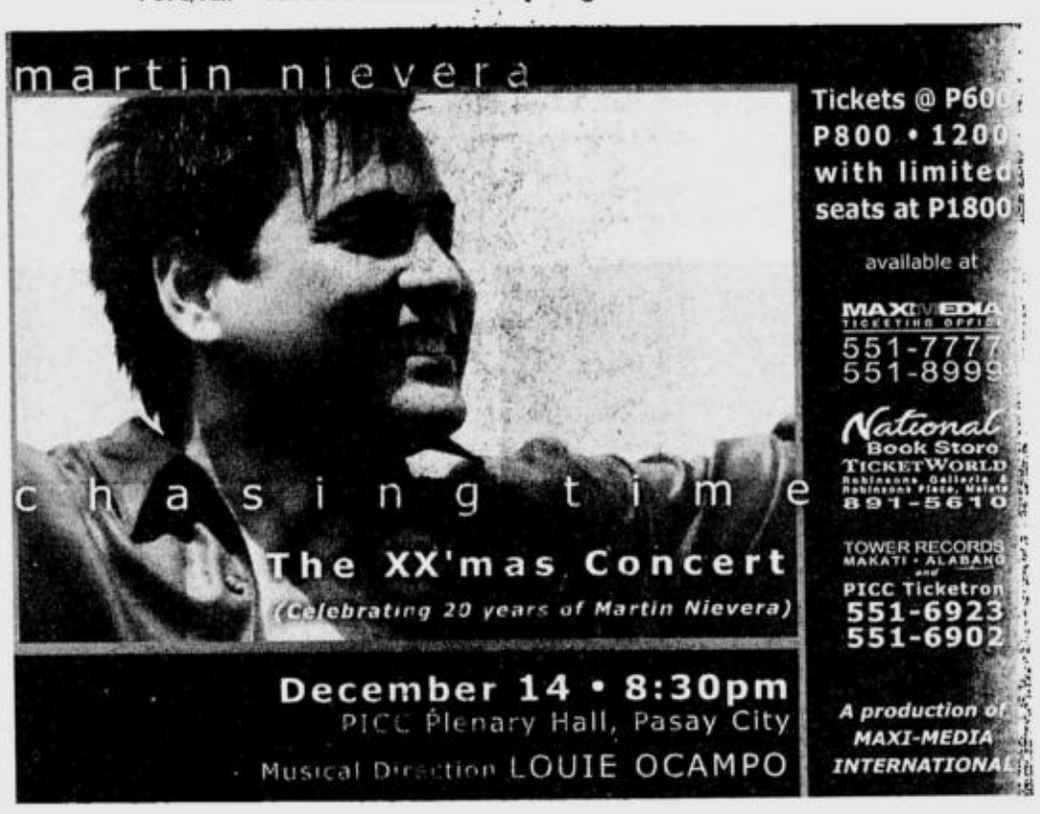
The tour kicks off tomorrow, Nov. 18, at SM Bacoor at 4 p.m.

Other dates: SM Fairview on Nov. 19; SM Pampanga, Nov. 20; SM Southmall, Nov. 21; SM Megamall, Nov. 22; SM Cebu City, Nov. 23;and at SM Davao City, Nov. 24.

"Chasing Time" contains new works by Moy Ortis and Edith Gallardo's "Isang Saglit, Isang Sandali," husband and wife Ben and Deng Escasa's "True Love," Hawaiian-based Andrei Estrada's "Sana," and Ricky Sanchez's "Habang Ikaw ay Narito."

It also includes compositions of the legendary George Canseco who teamed up with Martin's longtime pal Louie Ocampo on "Nasaan Ka Man." The title track was composed by Martin and Louie.

Brian McKnight, who has high regards for Martin's artistry, wrote special cuts—"Never Say Goodbye," "Over" "All the Way" and "Thank You for Saving My Life," a Martin-Brian collaboration.



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- Qualified subscribers will automatically be assigned with electronic raffle numbers per qualified call.
- Callers will get three raffle numbers for the first three minutes of their IDD call, and one raffle number for each succeeding minute thereafter.
- Subscribers may inquire on the number of raffle entries by calling the Customer Care Hotline at (02)888-1111 (Metro Manila/Luzon), 1-800-888-1111 (Visayas/Mindanao) or *888 through your Talk 'N Text cellphone.
- There will be eight winners of $500 every week, for 8 weeks. Subscribers can win more than once. Raffle entries from the previous draw will no longer be qualified for the succeeding draws.
- Promo period is from November 15, 2002 to January 10, 2003.
  Weekly draws will be held at the 30th Floor SMART Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, in the presence of a DTI representative, Talk 'N Text Marketing, and advertising agency on the following dates:
  November 25 December 2 December 9 January 6
  December 16 December 23 December 30 January 13
- Winners will be notified via registered mail, congratulatory text message, and a voice call to their Talk 'N Text mobile number.
- Winners will be asked to shoulder the 20% TAX on the cash prize.
- Winners may claim their prizes at the Wireless Center specified by them.
- Winners who will claim their prizes must present their active Talk 'N Text cellphone with their respective SIM number and congratulatory text message, notification letter via registered mail and any valid ID with photo.
- Prizes not claimed after 60 days from date of notification will be forfeited in favor of PILTEL with prior approval of DTI.
- Employees of SMART Communications, Inc., PILTEL, and their advertising agencies and their suppliers, and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join this promo.

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Weekly Draw				
Draw 1	November 15 - November 22	November 25, 2002	November 14 (12:01 mn)	November 22 (11:59 pm)
Draw 2	November 23 - November 29	December 2, 2002	November 22 (12:01 mn)	November 29 (11:59 pm)
Draw 3	November 30 - December 6	December 9, 2002	November 29 (12:01 mn)	December 6 (11:59 pm)
Draw 4	December 7 - December 13	December 16, 2002	December 6 (12:01 mn)	December 13 (11:59 pm)

DRAW	IDD USAGE	DRAW DATES	START	CUT-OFF
Weekly Draw				
Draw 5	December 14 - December 20	December 23, 2002	December 13 (12:01 mn)	December 20 (11:59 pm)
Draw 6	December 21 - December 27	December 30, 2002	December 20 (12:01 mn)	December 27 (11:59 pm)
Draw 7	December 28 - January 3	January 6, 2003	December 27 (12:01 mn)	January 5 (11:59 pm)
Draw 8	January 4 - January 10	January 13, 2003	January 3 (12:01 mn)	January 10 (11:59 pm)

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4 (DOLBY DTS EX)	HARRY POTTER
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CHANGING LANES
6 (DOLBY SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HARRY POTTER
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9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	KAILANGAN KITA

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4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

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3	KAILANGAN KITA

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(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

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3	SEX FILES
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4	HARRY POTTER
5	SEX FILES
6	HARRY POTTER

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PREMIERE CINEMA

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

"HARRY POTTER"

NOV. 13,14,16 R- TIME 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00, PM
NOV. 13,14,16 R- TIME 8:50, 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 PM
NOV. 18, 19, 2002 R- TIME 5:20, 8:10, 11:00, PM

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	ENOUGH

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3	MASARAP NA PUGAD
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
4	TWO TIMER
5	SEX FILES
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
8 (SDDS)	HIBLA
9 (DOLBY)	GHOST SHIP

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	SEX FILES
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
5	TWO TIMER
6 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
7 (DTS)	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	HARRY POTTER
9	THE TRANSPORTER

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1	SEX FILES
2 (SDDS)	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
5	HIBLA

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	SEX FILES
5 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	HARRY POTTER

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HIBLA

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	TWO TIMER MASARAP NA PUGAD SEX FILES

Mandaluyong

MARKETMARKET

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1	HIBLA
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	CHANGING LANES

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	MASARAP NA PUGAD
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SEX FILES

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	HIBLA
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

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1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
5 (DTS)	THE TRANSPORTER
6	SEX FILES
7	GHOST SHIP

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SEX FILES
2	HIBLA
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HIBLA
2 (DTS)	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
3 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
4	HIBLA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	SEX FILES
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DOLBY)	BALLISTIC ECK VS SEVER
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
4 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2 (DTS)	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KAILANGAN KITA
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4	SEX FILES

BUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	POSSESSION
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3 (DTS)	HIBLA
4 (DOLBY)	HARRY POTTER

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	HIBLA

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HARRY POTTER

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HARRY POTTER
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3 (DTS ES)	HARRY POTTER
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11	SEX FILES
12	MASARAP NA PUGAD

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1	HARRY POTTER 2
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9	HARY POTTER 2
10	HARY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	KAILANGAN KITA

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3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
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6	GHOST SHIP
7	CHANGING LANES
8	HIBLA
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	HARRY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	TRANSPORTER

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3	HIBLA
4	HIBLA
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7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2

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3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASARAP NA PUGAD
6	SEX FILES
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY CEBU

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2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	SEX FILES
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY ILOILO

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3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	CLOSED
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3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HIBLA
5	SEX FILES
6	KAILANGAN KITA

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3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA

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2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY DAVAO

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2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	CHANGING LANES

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2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2

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	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
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6	KAILANGAN KITA
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
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3	THETRANSPORTER
4	GHOST SHIP
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	HIBLA

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3	OPENS NOV. 20- GISING NA SI ADAN
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

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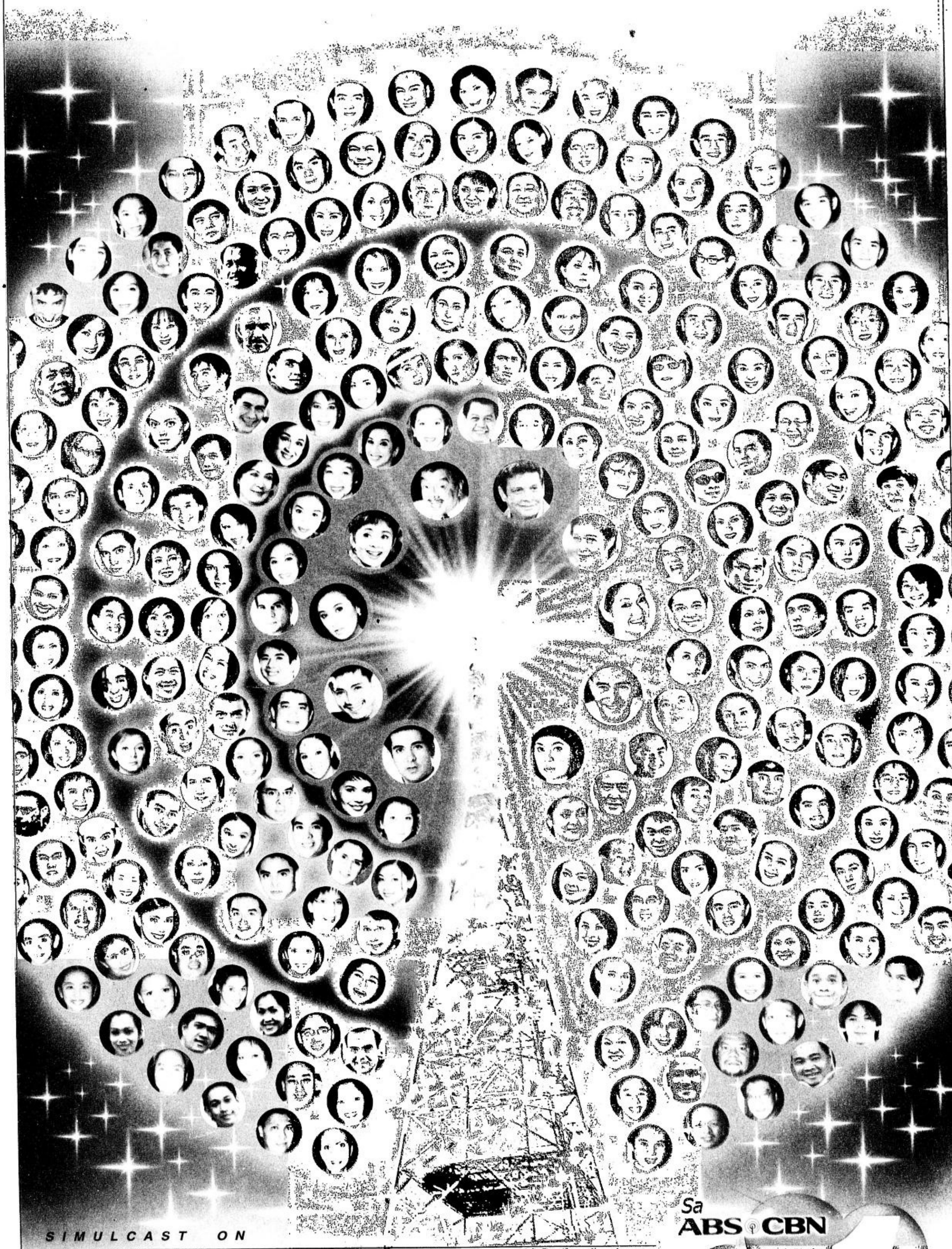

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Sunday BIZ

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Health buff executive finds healthy life aids in selling

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

A US executive once asked First Guarantee Life Insurance Co. Inc. president and CEO Peter G. Coyiuto how somebody who smokes can sell life insurance.

FIT EXEC

The executive's query was in reaction to an insurance agent whom he saw smoking.

Coyiuto agrees with the American's observation and makes sure that he himself carries the whole concept of life insurance in his life—work at a healthy lifestyle and a good family life.

Keeping a healthy lifestyle is never difficult for athletes as they imbibe the need for moderation in everything and discipline in sticking to the workouts.

Lucky for the First Life CEO that he started his athletic pursuits as early as in his elementary years.

Back in those days until high school, Coyiuto was always asked to sit at the back because he was one of the tall guys.

Add to this the Filipinos' penchant for basketball and he ended up being a player. At 5' 11" he also became a member of the school track and field team.

A Green Archer all the way, Coyiuto became captain ball of his high school team and played in the NCAA.

He paid a high price for his sports and his loyalty to school. During one NCAA game, his Beetle got smashed because he had a La Salle sticker in his windshield and his school won that day.

After being a good basketball player from elementary to high school, it was a different story, however, when he got to college.

At the Wharton School of Finance of the University of Pennsylvania, Coyiuto caught the basketbal coach's eye because he wrote "NCAA player" in his resume. NCAA in the US is a big thing as only the best young basketball players get to play in the association.

"Of course, when he saw my height that was another story," Coyiuto smiles.

His height, which was above average in the Philippines, wasn't much of an advantage amid the towering Americans. "You can't even dunk there," he recalls.

He decided it was time to shift to other sports like running and squash which at that time were big among Ivy League schools. He also started playing tennis and did some body-building.

Coyiuto finished his business administration degree major in Finance in 1978 and spent a year as a management trainee at Coopers Lybrand, an accounting firm, which later evolved into Price Waterhouse.

His work involved auditing and he traveled around New York, Toronto and Vancouver.

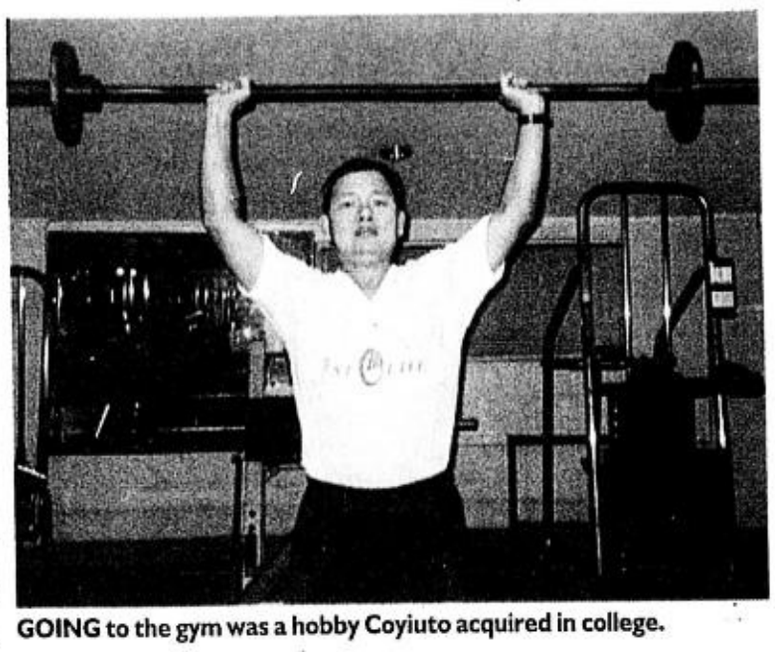
He worked for a year with his father, one of the founders of Pioneer Insurance (now Pioneer Allianz) but after just a year he was sent off to Europe to learn the ropes of general insurance.

Armed with a letter from his dad addressed to various CEO of insurance firms, Coyiuto spent a year on internships with various European firms.

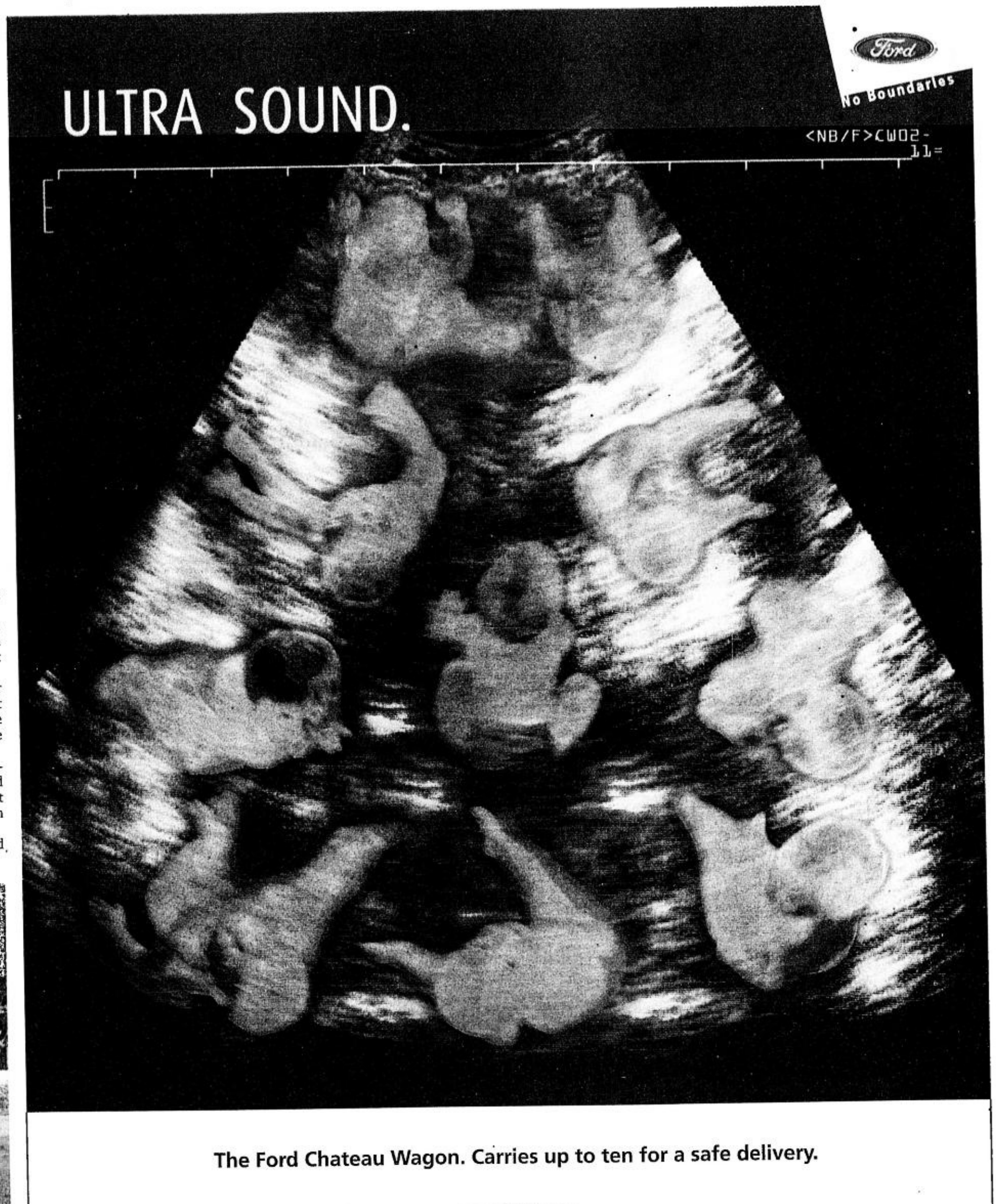
First stop was Lloyds of London, then the biggest general insurance firm. Then he went to other reinsurers. Europe then was the center of general insurance and all the big reinsurance companies were located in the region.

It was a great time for learning for Peter and he went back to Manila excited to put what he learned into practice. Unfortunately he was met with the news that his father was sick and passed away after a year and a half

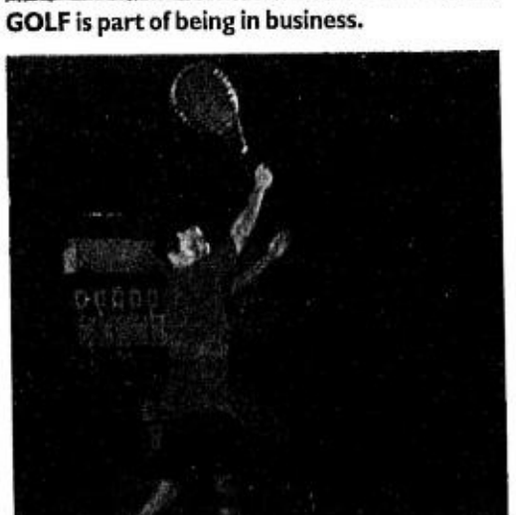
HEALTH/ B2



GOING to the gym was a hobby Coyiuto acquired in college.



GOLF is part of being in business.



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Christian-based Noah Fund has faith in future

NEW YORK—Bill Van Alen said he would have felt guilty about trying to drum up business for his mutual fund during the 2-1/2-year swoon in the stock market.

Now, in a positive sign for stock market optimists, Van Alen—president of Christian faith-based Noah Fund—says his "conscience is clear" to again spread the word about the fund invested in line with his interpretation of biblical principles.

"I didn't think it was fair to try and get people to buy the fund under those conditions, with the market going down," Van Alen told Reuters about his modest, $9-million fund that eschews businesses tied to alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography or abortion.

"Now I think things have changed." After abandoning marketing efforts to lure new money to the large-cap growth fund, Van Alen is back on track to start an extended family of funds at the new year.

Van Alen, who began the Noah Fund in 1996 dedicated to fundamentalist Christian values, said he has faith the economy is coming back and sees smoother sailing for investors.

"My conscience is clear to go out now and sell it, whereas my conscience would not have been clear the last two years if I had really pushed to sell it," he said in a telephone interview from his Edgemont, Pennsylvania, office.

Noah will expand from the current large-cap growth fund to include Select Value Equity, Select Value, Fixed Income and Global Precious Metals funds and a 4 Kids portfolio.

More choices

The lack of diversity was one reason the Noah Fund has had such a bumpy ride as large-cap growth proved to be one of the hardest-hit sectors during the stock market skid.

After posting gains of 51 percent and 30.6 percent during the bull markets of 1998 and 1999, respectively, Noah lost 28.3 percent in 2000, 23.3 percent in 2001, and about 21 percent so far this year.

Despite the rough seas experienced earlier this year, the Noah Fund, run by sub-manager John Geewax, whose Geewax Terker & Co. manages more than $3 billion in assets, is outpacing the average performance of large-cap growth funds this year by about 4 percent, according to Lipper.

The fund is a tiny part of a growing niche of socially reflective funds.

Morningstar classifies 81 funds with assets of about $12.5 billion under the banner of "socially responsible." About $2.51 trillion is invested in stock funds.

But Noah is about to get larger, at least in terms of offering its flock of investors more choices.

"The diversity of funds will alleviate the necessity for a customer to go elsewhere to find the downside protection to go along with the upside potential," said Van Alen, a self-described "old wills, trusts and estates lawyer"—who supervises the screening of unsuitable stocks and leaves the investment choices to his sub-managers.

Shareholders have been loyal to Noah despite a hefty expense ratio. The fund's expense ratio is 220 basis points against a category average of 134 basis points, according to Morningstar analyst Shannon Zimmerman, who notes the fund donates 10 percent of its fees to missions and the needs of the poor.

> Noah 4 Kids will offer a portfolio of stocks even a kid can understand

The fund, launched at a unit price of $10 with less than $1 million in assets, climbed to a high-water mark of $20.7 million in assets and a unit value of $29.40 in March 2000. Its current unit value is $11.13.

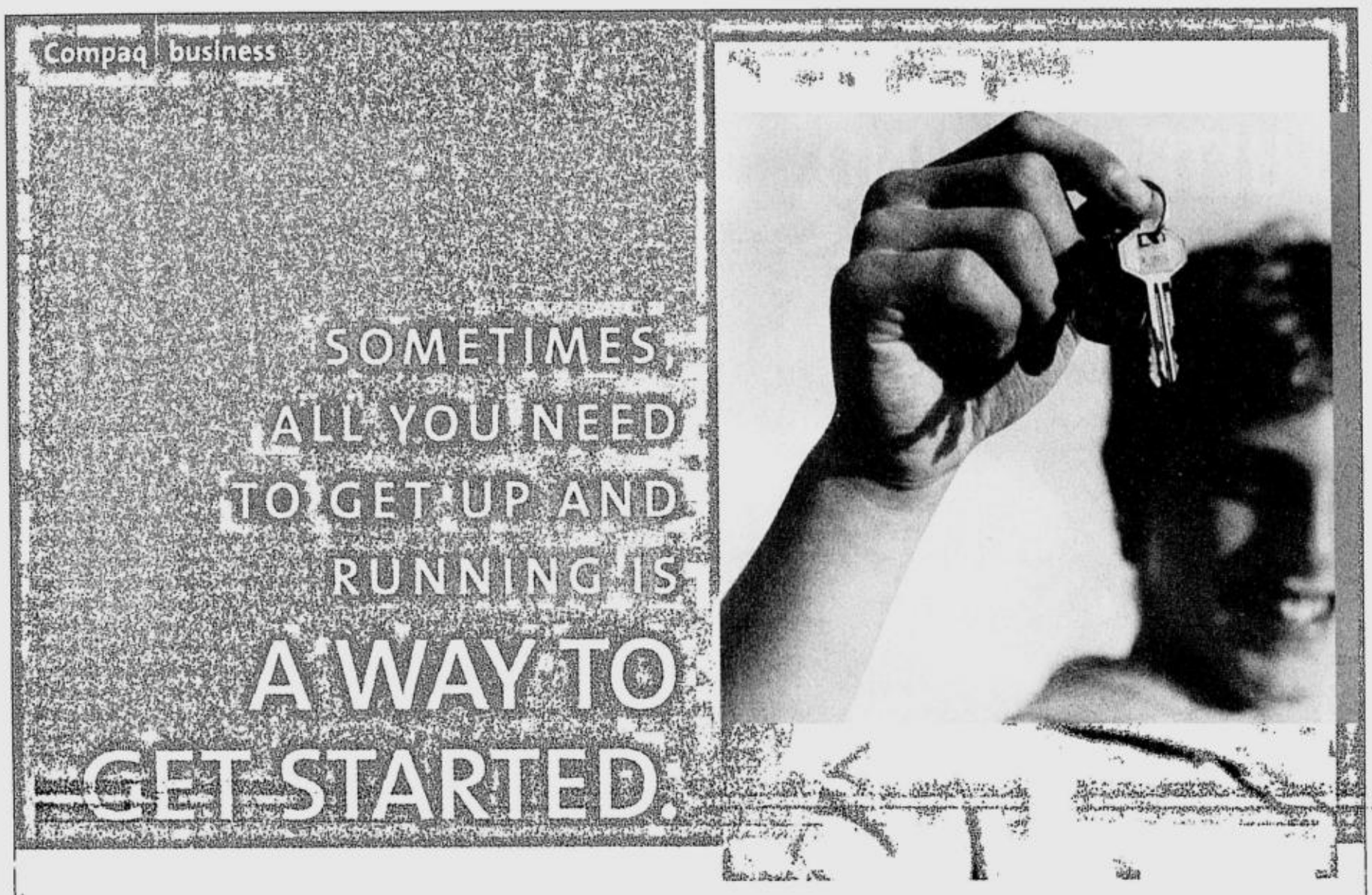
"When the valuation of the Noah Fund was up to $29, we had 600,000 shares. We now have almost 800,000 shares, so we've gotten more people investing," Van Alen said. "We have very loyal investors." Tom Roseen, research analyst for Lipper, said such loyalty was understandable.

"They are less likely to redeem and go someplace else because they are following an investment strategy they like while at the same time, following some kind of socially responsive behavior," Roseen said.

Van Alen relies on a quarterly report supplied by Pro Vita Advisors to rule out investments in offending companies.

"We take it to the production level," Van Alen said. "If your product produces an abortion, we don't invest in you. If you make a scalpel, we won't exclude you for that. We won't exclude you if you transport beer or sell beer, but we do exclude you if you produce beer.

"Producing it is what really causes the harm. If it weren't produced, it wouldn't be able to be utilized for the sin it is creating." Gunmakers and military contractors are not excluded. *Reuters*



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1 unit hp ProLiant ML310 server
1 unit hp LaserJet 1000

Total package price PhP 364,908.00

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- 10/100 mbps LAN card
- 48x CDROM
- Dual install Microsoft® Windows® 2000 / Microsoft® Windows® XP
- 43.18 cm (17") CRT Display
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hp ProLiant ML310 server
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2GHz
- 512K L2 cache
- 400MHz system bus
- memory expansion to 16GB
- max memory of 4GB Advanced ECC
- 200MHz DDR Advanced ECC, 2:1 interleaved
- 2 - 1.0" NHP HDDs

hp LaserJet 1000
- 600 x 600 dpi (1200 dpi)
- Up to 10 ppm (host-based printing speed)
- USB capable

Portable Bundle
3 units Compaq Evo N1000v notebook
2 units hp iPAQ H3970 Pocket PC
1 unit hp ProLiant ML310 server
1 unit hp LaserJet 1000

Total package price PhP 408,970.00

12 months leasing option: PhP 39,060.00 per month

24 months leasing option: PhP 20,806.00 per month

Compaq Evo N1000v notebook
- Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2GHz
- 256MB DDR SDRAM
- 20GB HDD
- 512KB integrated L2 cache
- 14.1" TFT display
- 2.63kg total weight
- 56K V.90 internal modem plus 10/100 NIC
- DVD ROM Drive
- Microsoft® Windows® XP

hp iPAQ H3970 Pocket PC
- 206MHz Intel® XScale processor
- 64MB base memory/ 48MB flash ROM
- Microsoft® Pocket PC software 2002
- 64K/16-bit color transflective TFT LCD

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- 400MHz system bus
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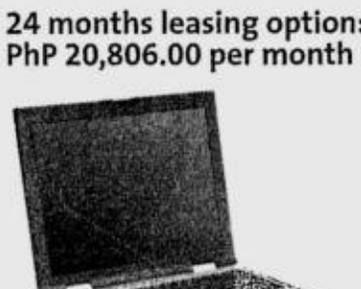

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PETER ran 42-K marathon in '89. JOHNNY VILLENA

Health buff. . .

From page B1

in May 1981. It was also then that they decided to sell their stake in Pioneer.

Soon after however the Coyiuto brothers set up Prudential Guarantee which is into non-life insurance.

Eight years later, the family felt it was time to go into life insurance and they got a small firm, Corregidor Life, and renamed it First Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc.

The firm has about 100 employees and 150 agents, and its own building along Salcedo St. in Makati City.

Coyiuto admits that the life insurance business is tough particularly with the deregulation which has allowed big insurance firms to come into the country.

But he says the firm adjusts to the needs of the market and tries to come up with products that will suit consumers' needs.

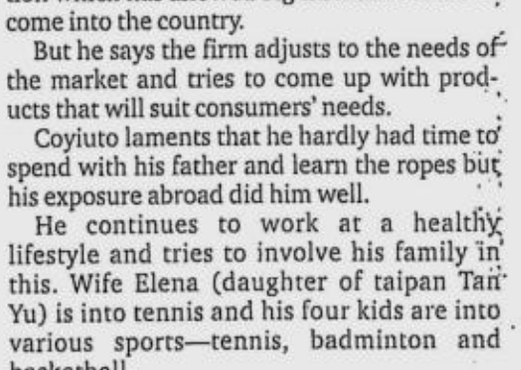
Coyiuto laments that he hardly had time to spend with his father and learn the ropes but his exposure abroad did him well.

He continues to work at a healthy lifestyle and tries to involve his family in this. Wife Elena (daughter of taipan Tan Yu) is into tennis and his four kids are into various sports—tennis, badminton and basketball.

Coyiuto makes sure he works out every day for 45 minutes before going to work. He either swims, runs, goes to the gym, plays tennis or golf to keep body and mind healthy.

Working out has paid off as Coyiuto has maintained a relatively good physique matched by a 34-inch waistline.

He hopes to eventually be able to impart good health to his people and talks about a CEO of an insurance firm who has declared Fridays as "Fruit Day" in his firm. During these day he gives away fruits to his employees.



THE CEO got into running since high school.

From garbage to fuel: Briquettes for Christmas bonfires

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Chestnuts roasting on an open fire make people nostalgic of Baguio's fireplaces and bonfires on chilly nights.

But with ecological awareness growing, open bonfires and barbecue also remind us of forest lands being cleared for firewood and charcoal.

The city government wants to assuage this guilt by coming out with briquettes or "green charcoal" made from sawdust, rice husks, corncobs, peanut shells, twigs and branches from the city's garbage dump in Barangay Irisan.

Romeo Concio, the city's general services officer, said the city government would be ready for the commercial production of the briquettes in time for the Christmas holidays.

They distributed packs of briquettes to city employees for product testing and so far, the results had been satisfactory, Concio said.

The briquettes last three times longer than ordinary charcoal and produce less smoke and are less messy than charcoal, he added.

Although the production of briquettes from municipal and city wastes had been introduced to the country in 1998, only Baguio City was ambitious enough to go into large-scale production.

The provincial government of Abra conducted training in briquette production in 2000 but the province still has to produce briquettes because of the lack of equipment and local government support.

Training for the production of briquettes began last August for Baguio's garbage collectors. A month later, some of the 150 families living at the Irisan dump were also trained by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc. (JVOFI).

The DENR then loaned a briquettor (briquette mold) to garbage collectors for the initial production.

Briquettes are created by first segregating the raw materials at the garbage dump. The segregated materials are then shredded through a machine and then carbonized.

Carbonizing means partially burning the materials and mixing these with a binder, usually starch.

Concio said the smoke produced by the carbonizer is minimal and purely agricultural. The materials are then set into molds and then packaged into one-kilogram bags.

He said the city produces 90 tons of garbage a day, a large portion of which is recyclable.

He said Baguio went into large-scale recycling due to the passage of the Clean Air Act and the constant pressures from the government of Tuba, Benguet.

Residents and officials of Tuba have been complaining from the leachate (garbage juice) from Irisan that goes down the town's farms and the incessant smoke from the dump.

With the present manual briquetting, the city produces only about 5 kg of briquettes an hour. Most of these are done by garbage collectors on their days off, Concio said.

By December, the office of city general services will produce about 20 to 25 kg of briquettes an hour, he said.

The OCGS is asking the city government to buy at least three sets of briquetting machines composed of a shredder, a carbonizer and a briquettor.

The OCGS is now using a manual briquettor but a hydraulic-powered mold can produce 40 to 50 kg an hour. In full production with three sets of machine, the OCGS can then produce a little less than a ton of briquettes a day.

With this kind of production, garbage collectors and families living in Irisan can earn at least P1,000 a day from producing briquettes.

Concio said the briquette would be sold between P10 and P12 a kilo starting Nov. 23.

Most of the briquettes sold in the country are imported and cost thrice as much, he said.

Concio is also thinking of distributing the briquettes at selected supermarkets here as well as at the charcoal section of the Baguio City market so the public can be more aware of the "green charcoal" and later patronize them.

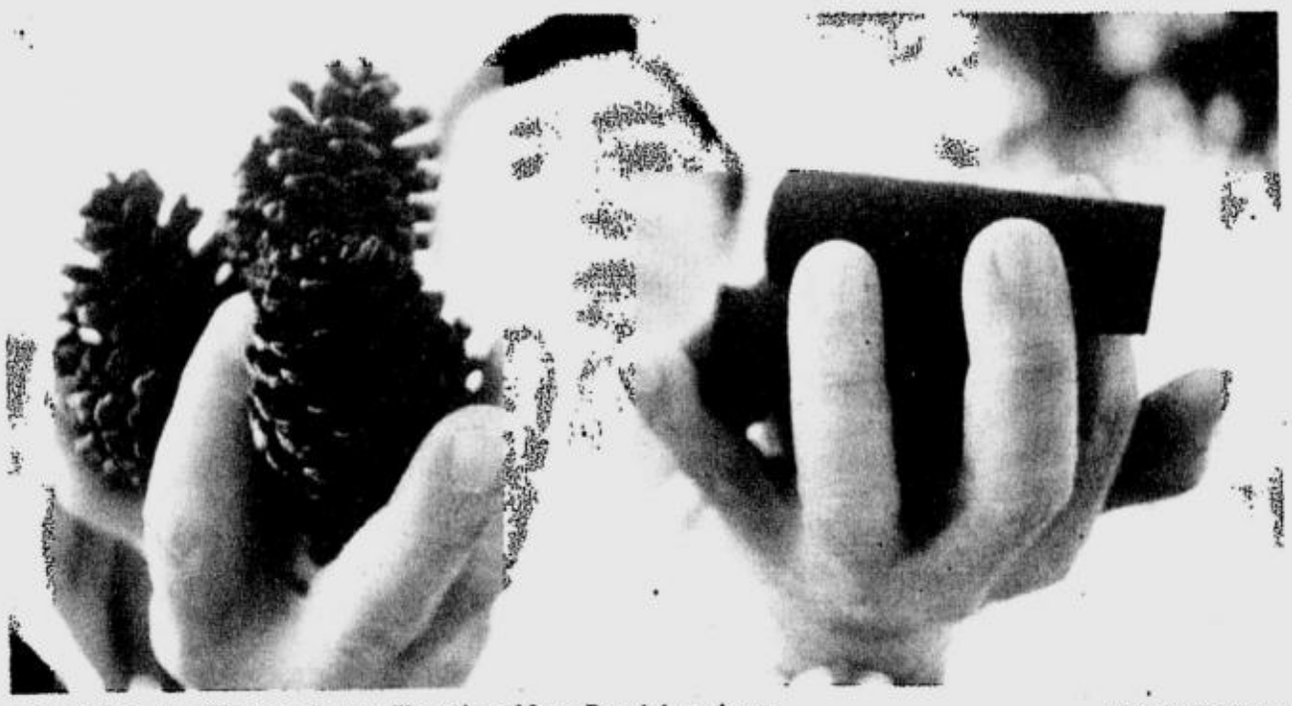
"The more that we can lessen the use of traditional charcoal means that we can stop cutting trees and preserve whatever is left of our forests," he said.

The raw materials for briquettes consist of only a fraction of the organic waste produced in the city. Most of the waste can be recycled through composting.

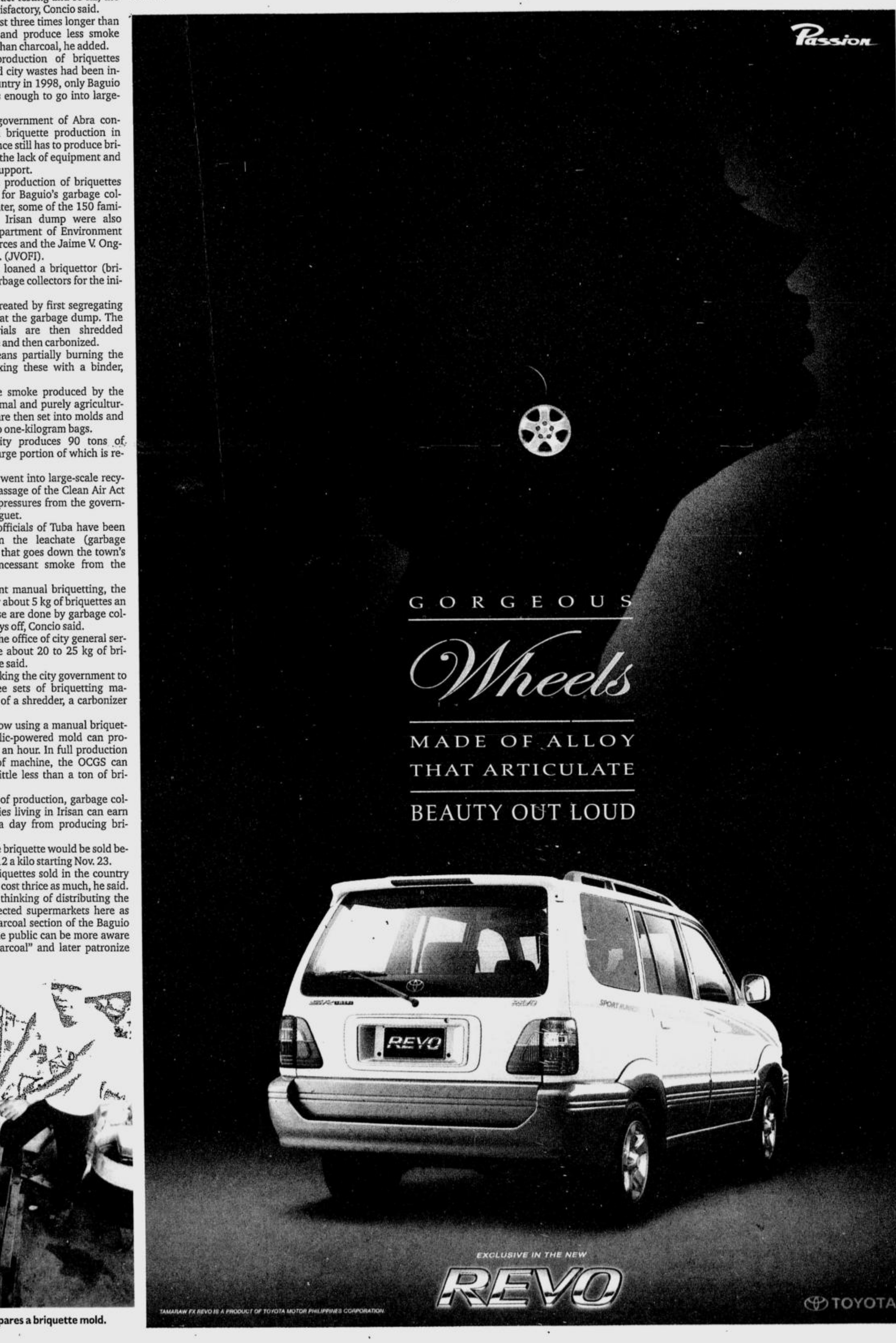
The city's composting program was established in the 1990s with the help of the JVOFI. The small composting plant at the Irisan dump is also the production site for briquettes.

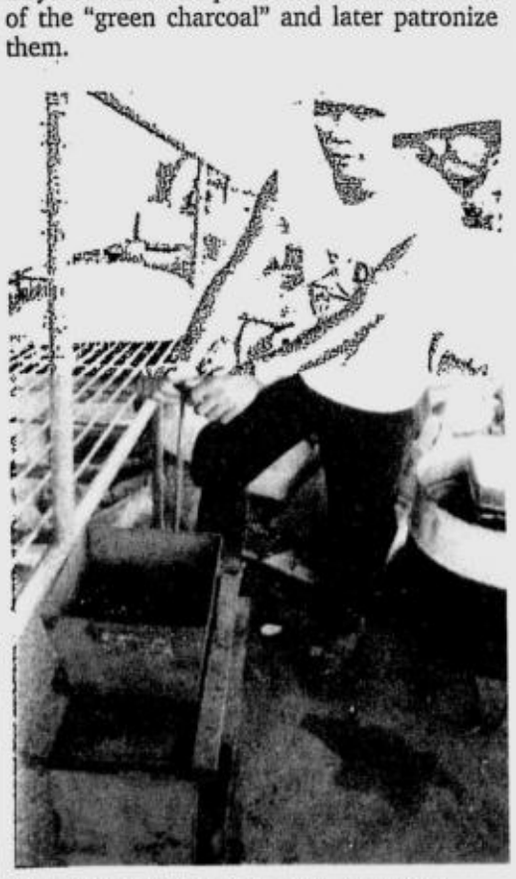
Concio, who attended a recent recycling workshop in Thailand, said the OCGS is asking the city to build six silos (a tall cylindrical container) for its composting program. A silo can contain 30 tons of compost.

He said the garden-type composting now practiced in small towns and big villages in urban centers cannot be applied in Baguio because of the huge amount of leachate that will be produced. Silos collect the leachate in ponds and can easily be treated, he said.



CONCIO shows off "green charcoal" produced from Baguio's garbage. PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU





A WORKER prepares a briquette mold.

Local businesses give back part of what they take from society

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH annual income in the millions and billions of pesos, it is sometimes easy to think that large corporations think of nothing and no one but themselves. But more than 170 of these bigwig companies has proven that big businesses have a conscience, too.

The 170-strong Philippine Business for Social Progress has joined forces with the Asian Development Bank, Department of Finance and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council to give 5,823 urban poor families in 23 communities in Metro Manila a chance at improving their lives.

With the $6.9-million Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction in Metro Manila (STEP-UP), the four entities aim to reduce poverty and improve the living conditions of urban poor families.

The ADB, through the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), has donated $3.6 million for the project. PBSP gave the balance of $3.3 million as counterpart assistance.

ADB vice president Joseph Eichenberger says the ADB has always been keen on "funding innovative approaches to reduce poverty" and the STEP-UP program is one such project.

He adds that STEP-UP's key objection, aside from alleviating poverty in Metro Manila, is to fuse together the private sector, ADB, local government units, and even the national government.

"This project is an excellent way to achieve those objective," he says.

Under the STEP-UP program, grants will be given to 23 communities in Malabon, Caloocan, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Quezon City, Pasig, Taguig and Muntinlupa for community infrastructure and basic services, revolving funds for housing improvements, microenterprises to promote livelihood opportunities, and programs that will teach how to prevent and prepare for fire, floods and typhoons.

PBSP corporate citizenship committee chair and outgoing NestléPhil. Inc. chair and chief executive Juan Santos says the STEP-UP group is also contemplating implementing similar projects in other areas in the Greater Manila Area.

But helping alleviate poverty in Metro Manila is no easy task as the urban poor now represents around 40 percent of the metropolis' population and this is still growing.

ADB principal urban development specialist Matthew Westfall adds that it will take P8.6 billion over a 15-year period to create a "slum-free metropolis."

"The growth rate of Metro Manila's urban poor population is at 4.4 percent a year and the average family size per household is 7.1. This is really a large-scale problem," he says.

But Westfall expresses confidence that with the private sector partnering with the government to fight poverty, it can be done.

"The business and NGO (non-government organizations) sectors are keen on improving the effectiveness of corporate social responsibility, and on providing more coordinated and strategic outreach in the fight against poverty," he says.

He adds: "A key aim is to increase the level and impact of corporate outreach and to ensure sustainable long-term impacts that improve the lives of the poor in a measurable way."

PBSP chair and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president and chief executive Manuel V. Pangilinan is only very happy to indulge Westfall's call for a more far-reaching corporate outreach.

"We're trying to expand the scope of the project and even the donations," he says.

He adds that PBSP has so far been contributing P220 million to P250 million yearly for various projects.

Japanese finds investing in humankind profitable

By Angelina G. Goloy

STOCKS and bonds, jewelry, real property, new technology. In this world of fast dwindling resources, investments are as varied as a person or company's needs, the degree of urgency of these needs, and the scope and reach of benefits.

A Japanese businessman who made a fortune in stocks saw that the needs of the world are myriad, and chose to invest in the most precious of resources—humankind. Ryoichi Sasakawa founded the Nippon Foundation, which supports a wide range of projects in more than 100 countries around the world, from the elimination of leprosy to the promotion of international cooperation, all in fulfillment of his vision of a better world.

Established in 1962 primarily for the development of Japan's marine resources and maritime industry, the foundation today is an independent, non-profit, grant-making organization that funds four categories of philanthropic activities: domestic public welfare, domestic volunteer support, maritime development and overseas cooperative assistance. Under the last category, the foundation gives grants to NGO programs in areas like health care and support for the disabled, agriculture, education, human resources development, and cultural, social, intellectual exchanges.

Funds to operate projects are drawn from an unusual source—proceeds of motorboat racing—a sport Sasakawa discovered in an American magazine and decided to adopt in Japan to help raise money for postwar reconstruction efforts.

Until he passed on in 1995 at the age of 96, he remained active as the first president and chair of the Nippon Foundation. His son Yohei has since carried on his mission, particularly the foundation's joint campaign with the World Health Organization to rid the world of leprosy by year 2005.

Sasakawa's story is told by Tatsuya Tanami, director for international affairs, who was in Manila recently to screen applicants to the Asian Public Intellectuals (API) Fellowship Program, one of the foundation's overseas assistance projects.

Although born to a rich family engaged in the brewery business, Sasakawa received only primary education because his disciplinarian parents decided that learning to serve the community was far more important. They sent their son to a Buddhist temple to work for the monks.

TANAMI

In adulthood, Sasakawa's keen business sense more than compensated for his lack of education.

Spurred by a deep sense of community service, he went into public office, becoming a representative of the Diet and later on forming his own political party.

After the war he was jailed for protesting the war crimes trials, although he was released three years later for lack of evidence. "Even in jail, the spirit to help others prevailed in him," Tanami said in an interview during his brief visit here. "It is said that he came across an article about boat racing, with pictures, in a US magazine discarded by one of the police guards."

This inspired what today is a public business—like all forms of gambling in Japan—posting annual revenues of 54 billion yen, or about $500 million. "The money (from 21 boat racing sites) is administered by the local governments and the Ministry of Transportation," Tanami explained.

In 1951, the Japanese parliament passed a law setting aside 3.3 percent of motorboat racing revenues for the Nippon Foundation's philanthropic projects. In 1998, for instance, the foundation gave grants amounting to 66.9 billion yen ($535.7 million), of which 7.1 billion yen ($56.8 million) went to overseas cooperative assistance projects.

One of these projects is the API fellowships, which Tanami conceptualized in fulfillment of Sasakawa's vision to develop more Asian leaders outside the conventional sphere, politics. "Asians have always looked to the West for models; we have to learn from fellow-Asians and find ways to cooperate," Tanami said.

The program hopes to create a pool of knowledgeable, experienced, and creative individuals who can articulate the common problems of the peoples of Asia and are committed to seeking solutions to these problems.

Governments will always have limitations, Tanami said. As more problems crop up, the more we see the incapabilities of public offices, and the stronger civil society emerges. "Public intellectuals are people who reach out where the government cannot, they fill the gap," he said.

Launched in 2000, the API fellowships are administered in the Philippines by the School of Social Sciences of the Ateneo de Manila University with Dr. Felice Noelle Rodriguez as country coordinator and Russell Q. Tabisula as program assistant. The program is run also in Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia.

"The API fellowships are open to people who, through their work, shape public opinion and influence policy, such as academics, mass media professionals, artists and NGO leaders," Rodriguez said. Applicants propose a project of research or professional activity. Those who are selected carry out the project in any of the five partner countries except their own. Fellows present the results of their research and are henceforth expected to gain a deeper understanding of one another's cultures and of the region.

Most of the proposals deal with social issues like poverty and minority groups, go beyond national boundaries and deal with changing societies, as seen in migration, globalization, and cultural identity changes.

The biggest number of applications comes from Philippines, indicating "it has a big pool of public intellectuals," Tanami noted. That should augur well for the country's future.

The Filipino API fellows for the first two years are: Nick Deocampo, Mowelfuld Institute; Fr. Rene Pio Javellana, SJ, Jesuit Communications; Cristina Jayme-Montiel, Ateneo de Manila University Department of Psychology; Cecilia de la Paz, UP College of Arts and Letters Department of Art Studies; Arnold M. Azurin, Anthropological Association of the Philippines; Francisco A. Englis, Mindanao State University-Institute of Technology; Jose M. Galang Jr., The Manila Times; Sr. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, St. Scholastica's College, Manila; Wilfredo M. Torres III, Notre Dame of Jolo College; Alan J. Villarante, House of Representatives. *(The API offices are at the Center for Community Services Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Tel. No. 426-6001 loc. 5240/41).*

Casiguran reaps ₱84-million windfall from 'tahong'

CASIGURAN, Sorsogon—The spanking cleanliness of the cities of the tiger economies such as Singapore impressed Edwin Hamor so much that he was convinced that the only way out of the economic hole his community is in is to pursue a program, which goes back to the basics of discipline and devoted adherence to the protection of its environment.

After becoming mayor of Casiguran town in Sorsogon province in 1998, Hamor, a trained civil engineer, pursued the government's clean and green program and he got more than what he bargained for.

Windfall from 'tahong'

The people of Casiguran not only got a cash award and a gold-plated plaque as the cleanest and greenest municipality in the Bicol region but it also earned millions from the production and sale of green mussels, or "tahong" which thrive in clean water.

This fifth-class municipality which is located along the southeastern coast of the Sorsogon Bay, some 22 kilometers south of the provincial capital Sorsogon City, earns at least P84 million a year from tahong.

Benigno Bejison, municipal agriculture officer, said that what distinguishes the "tahong," or green mussels, produced in his town is its uniquely tender and juicy meat and the fact that it had never been affected by the highly toxic red tide.

"Modesty aside, our tahong is perhaps the best and the safest in the country because it comes from the cleanest and the most ideal place for its production. The people of our town tried their best to make it that way and we will work harder to keep it that way," said Bejison adding that the muddy bottom of the sea and the pH balance of the seawater are the most ideal combination for raising green mussel.

Bejison said that over 1,200 residents here who come from the lower income groups are involved in one-way or another in the production, transportation and trading of "tahong."

"I have not fully grasped the significance and impact of this humble livelihood on the lives of our people and the local economy until today," said Bejison.

There are over 400,000 bamboo poles planted in the muddy bottom of the bay which act as temporary homes to the green mussels. Each pole yields an average of 14 kilos of "tahong" sold at between P130 and P150 per kilo.

Each harvest follows an eight-month cycle so that one whole year is equivalent to 1.5 harvests.

He said that this proves that green mussel is among the primary crops and basic sources of livelihood in this municipality along with rice and coconut production and fishing.

Red tide-free mussels

The muddy seabed of Casiguran used to be the home to indigenous specie of large red mussels.

But it was not the usual table fare because they were unusually tough and tasted like mud.

Having found a large area of the Sorsogon Bay ideal for commercial mussels production, the Bureau Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in 1984 experimented on spawning the preferred green mussel variety in the area.

"Tahong" production in many areas of the province immediately took off but did not thrive for long because of pollution coupled with the rapid denudation of the province's forest areas causing the seasonal attacks of the deadly red tide toxin.

FRESH green mussels from Sorsogon Bay provide income to lowly Casiguranons.

Green mussels in Sorsogon, as in the rest of the "tahong" producing areas in the country, suffered significant losses.

Casiguran was not even among the first communities to cash in on the mussels' production because of the red tide scare, according to Bejison.

"It was only after we had embarked on an ambitious protection and rehabilitation of our shores and forest that we found out that we could competitively produce and sell our "tahong," he said.

Bejison said that Casiguran's success had been due mainly to the people's collective effort at resolving the problem of pollution.

"To us, our collective efforts as a disciplined community is a matter of survival so that we exerted the greatest effort at putting life back into our environment in areas that were seldom visible to the casual observers," Hamor said.

Being near the estuary of the Magallanes River and a few other minor rivers in the province, the coastal waters off Casiguran town used to be one of the most polluted areas in the region.

Waters from those rivers contaminated with pollutants—chemical pesticides and fertilizers and household wastes—had for so long been allowed to be dumped directly to its coastal waters.

It was countered by regular monthly coastal clean up and monitoring programs. Practical yet simple measures were installed like the catchment areas for liquid and solid wastes from rivers and streams were built along the estuaries and the replanting of hundreds of thousands of mangrove propagules in its coastal areas.

The rehabilitated mangrove areas also served as ideal spawning grounds for crabs, fish and shrimps as well as hundred of others marine species.

Further evidence of the success of the "Bantay Gubat" (forest guard) and "Bantay Dagat " projects that are well beyond the initial expectations of the community is the resurgence of exotic marine species.

The giant "alimasag" (crab) which in maturity weighs an average of 2 kilos; the "alimusang," or salt water Hito,or cat fish which grows up to over half a meter and weighs 4 kilos and the "alawon" (the "kanduli" to the Tagalogs) once thought of by residents as extinct and forever gone from their waters are now regularly seen and caught by fishermen.

Many other highly commercial fish like "banak," lapu-lapu "alatan" have also returned to Casiguran.

The installation of a pilot two-hectare fish sanctuary enhanced with tree trimmings as artificial reef are intended to propagate these species and many others, for future generations.

Half a dozen more fish sanctuaries are in the planning stage. Out to enforce the town's strict environmental ordinances are five full-time deputized forest rangers of the "bantay gubat" and 12 trained conservationists in two pump boats making up the "bantay dagat" team.

Community-based industry

Tahong has made a great impact on the lives of over 1,200 coastal residents of Casiguran whose economic life used to revolve around a catch of a few kilos of fish on a good weather and almost nothing during the typhoon season late in the year.

But with the newly found windfall from tahong, many of them can already afford to save up on household appliances and send their children to high school and college.

This emerging phenomenon is more pronounced among the residents of 10 coastal villages of Cawit, Lungib, Tulay, Central, Samal-ot, Colambis, Ponong, Trece Martires, Boton and Rizal.

Mayor Hamor believes that it is only a matter of time before the rest in his town and perhaps the province, would catch up. ***Roly Casim Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF MEMBERS

To All PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XII, Section I of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members will be on Friday, November 29, 2002 at 9:30 a.m., Grand Ballroom, Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel, Bacolod City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice of Meeting
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Business Meeting held on November 29, 2001
5. President's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Ratification of Amendments to PICPA By-Laws
8. New Business
9. Elections
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Business Meeting. If you cannot be present in person during the meeting, please secure and accomplish the necessary Proxy form at PICPA Secretariat Office, PICPA Building, 700 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City with Tel. No. 723-0691 to 95, 723-5467 & 726-9452.

ROBERTO G. MANABAT
National Secretary

Note: This notice and other relevant documents have been posted earlier at the PICPA website – www.picpa.com.ph.

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Please turn to page B12 for more classified ads.

Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme needs a

Disaster Management Programme Coordinator

- To manage its disaster management and humanitarian action programme, including the management of staff, finances and donors
- To lead in strategy and programme development, including policy analysis and advocacy formulation and strategizing
- To ensure the quality and impact of the programme and emergency responses, ensuring that gender inequality is addressed
- To contribute to Oxfam's disaster response strategy and programme development in East Asia
- To build the capability of Oxfam staff and partners
- To represent Oxfam Great Britain and maintain relations with relevant stakeholders

Core Competencies:
- Mature understanding of development work in the Philippines, preferably in the area of disaster management and humanitarian work
- Leadership and self-management
- Conceptual, critical and analytical thinking
- Initiative, drive to achieve results, ability to develop effective organizations
- Works effectively with others
- Adaptable and flexible

Essential Specifications
- Proven management experience, demonstrating competencies in programme and management, monitoring and evaluation and personnel management
- Strong analytical and conceptual skills; in particular, an ability to rapidly assimilate, analyze and report on complex information
- Understanding of current issues in development and disaster management, and an ability to incorporate gender into analysis, programme strategy and implementation and M&E
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and work under pressure and to deadlines, sometimes in situations of stress and uncertainty
- Good interpersonal skills and the ability to work sensitively with people from various cultural and social backgrounds
- Willing and able to travel frequently, for extended periods, and to remote areas
- Computer literate
- Fluent written and spoken English

Desirable Specifications
- Work experience in conflict areas
- Knowledge of any Philippine language other than Tagalog
- Training experience

Submit application letter with complete CV to:

THE PROGRAMME REPRESENTATIVE
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A MALUMANAY STREET
TEACHERS' VILLAGE
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY 1101
FAX: 927-0499
E-MAIL: manila@oxfam.org.uk

Closing date: 30 November 2002
Interview date: 13 December 2002

Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme needs a

Disaster Management Programme Officer

- To plan, implement, monitor and evaluate Oxfam's disaster management programme
- To contribute to the further development of the programme's framework, strategic plans and strategies, including its gender aspects
- To relate with and manage existing and potential partners and donors: project appraisals and grant making, capability and organization-development support, assistance in emergency operations during major disasters, and networking
- To help ensure excellent standards in programme and financial systems, procedures and practice
- To liaise and maintain relations with disaster management/ response agencies and other appropriate bodies

Core Competencies:
- Mature understanding of development work in the Philippines, preferably disaster management and humanitarian work
- Conceptual, critical and analytical thinking
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Adaptable and flexible

Essential Specifications
- Proven experience in development work, demonstrating competencies in programming and budgeting
- Understanding of development and disaster management issues, and an ability to incorporate gender into the analyses, programme strategy and implementation and M&E
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DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY 1101
FAX: 927-0499
E-MAIL: manila@oxfam.org.uk

Closing date: 30 November 2002
Interview date: 16 December 2002

UNDP

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) together with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) aiming to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to development as recognized by both national and international laws is in search of qualified individuals to work for the project PHI/01/007-Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples for Governance and Sustainable Development of Ancestral Domains. The qualified candidates will be based and reporting directly to the Project Coordinator and will form part of the Project Management Office of .

1. **ANCESTRAL DOMAINS SPECIALIST (ADS) - Code Number NCIP ADS**

The Ancestral Domains Specialist will be responsible for the overall delivery, implementation and monitoring of the Component 1 of the PHI/01/007 project, namely, the Sustainable Development and Management of Ancestral Domains (SDAD).

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the overall effective & efficient implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDAD component of the project.
2. Maintain functional and effective working relations with and among relevant offices within the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and promote the project to other partners and stakeholders towards forging genuine partnerships.
3. Ensure participation of the NCIP staff, indigenous peoples, and concerned partners in the planning and implementation of appropriate & relevant capacity building and other training activities relevant to the implementation of the SDAD component of the project.
4. Provide technical assistance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of training activities to equip indigenous peoples with proper skills to ensure their full participation in the delineation of their ancestral domains, and in the preparation and implementation of their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPPs).
5. Facilitate the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples Development Fund Facility mechanism, including guidelines for its implementation.
6. Facilitate a participatory community-based monitoring and evaluation system for the SDAD component of the project.
7. Convene regular meetings, workshops and other related activities aimed at strengthening working relationships among stakeholders and partnership with concerned government and non-government organizations.
8. Actively participate in regular project monitoring and review meetings of the Project Management Office (PMO), including provision of technical inputs and support for the effective delivery project activities.
9. Assist the Project Coordinator in the development and finalization of the Project Operations Manual.
10. Prepare and submit quarterly work and financial plans, quarterly accomplishment reports, annual progress reports and budget requirements specifically under the SDAD component.
11. Coordinate activities with the other components of the project, especially in the provision of inputs to the overall work and financial plan, accomplishment reports and budget requirements of the project.
12. Perform other related technical and administrative functions as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator

2. **GOVERNANCE SPECIALIST (GS) - Code NCIP GS**

The Governance Specialist will be responsible for the overall delivery, implementation and monitoring of Components 2 and 3 of the PHI/01/007 project, namely, Component 2 – Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples Governance (IPG) and Component 3 – Strengthening the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the overall effective & efficient implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strengthening of the IPG and NCIP components of the project.
2. Maintain functional and effective working relations with and among relevant offices within the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and promote the project to partners and other stakeholders towards forging genuine partnerships with concerned government and non-government organizations.
3. Actively participate and provide technical inputs in the planning and implementation of appropriate and relevant training activities to increase capacities of NCIP staff and indigenous peoples to enable them to fully participate in the implementation of the IPG and NCIP components of the project.
4. Provide technical assistance in the planning, implementation and evaluation of in-service and staff development activities to equip NCIP staff with appropriate professional and technical attitude, knowledge and skills to deliver their mandate as provided by the IPRA.
5. Actively participate in regular project monitoring and review meetings of the Project Management Office (PMO), including provision of technical inputs and support for the effective delivery project activities.
6. Convene regular consultation and coordination meetings, workshops and other related activities aimed at strengthening working relationships among stakeholders, government, non-government, and other relevant partners.
7. Assist the Project Coordinator in the development and finalization of the Project Operations Manual.
8. Prepare and submit quarterly work and financial plans, quarterly accomplishment reports, annual progress reports and budget requirements specifically under the IPG and NCIP components of the project.
9. Coordinate activities with the other components of the project, especially in the provision of inputs to the overall work and financial plan, accomplishment reports and budget requirements of the project.
10. Perform other related technical and administrative functions as may be assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Qualification requirements:

Both the above posts of ADS and GS will require a minimum of five (5) years proven experience in working with indigenous peoples, ancestral lands/domains issues, capacity building, community organizing, training, appraisal, evaluation, networking and resource mobilization. A post-graduate degree in the field of social sciences would be an advantage.

Both the posts of ADS and GS require awareness and understanding of Indigenous peoples development issues and concerns. He/She must be knowledgeable of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 and other documents promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. The posts require cultural sensitivity and willingness to travel to hinterland indigenous peoples communities/areas.

The applicants must be proficient in written and spoken English. Qualified members of an indigenous cultural community are highly encouraged to apply

Duration of contracts:
Initial employment for the above posts (ADS and GS) will be for six (6) months, with possibility of extension based on satisfactory performance

Professional fees:
Each post will be paid a monthly salary of Php30,000.

All application letters and comprehensive resumé should reach our office on or before 22 November 2002. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail). Tel. Nos. (632) 892-0611 to 25, Fax Nos. (632) 8160461; 893-9598; E-mail address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

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Pre-registration is required. For more information, you may call telephone nos. **(02) 935-1102 / 0920-281-6866.**

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE
Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Negros Oriental invites all licensed security agencies to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for its CY 2003 security services requirement involving Twenty-seven (27) guards for the different provincial offices and facilities.

All bidders must be pre-qualified and accredited not later than **December 2, 2002**. The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Committee on Awards Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office).

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before **December 3, 2002** not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

A Pre-bid conference is scheduled on November 28, 2002 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
Governor of Negros Oriental

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 17, 2002)

We are the fast-growing **Business Consulting Division** of a leading global research company that provides industry analysis and market strategy consulting across 16 Asian countries. **Our clients** include the **top market players and multinational corporations**, requiring creative research and consulting solutions across a wide range of industries. We are seeking dynamic and highly qualified individuals to fill a position based in Manila for:

PROJECT DIRECTOR

(Reference: PD-PH)

Responsibilities: Manage the Manila branch of the Business Consulting division, Business development and client liaison, Research management and execution, Report structuring/writing/editing and client presentations. Candidates must have a business development orientation and be prepared to work on research projects in diverse industries.

Requirements: A successful candidate should be

- A degree holder, preferably in business/management/economics/finance; MBA or Masters' preferred
- <30 years old and have 4-6 years' experience in commercial research, business intelligence, advisory/consulting or banking fields
- Have proven business development capability and general management experience
- Detail-oriented in project planning, coordination and management
- Able to lead and motivate a research team
- Able to do keen and creative analysis and exercise both quantitative and qualitative analytical skills
- Able to work independently under tight deadlines and manage stress well
- Able to write and speak business English and have excellent editing skills

Substantial overseas exposure and previous experience in a regional capacity with an MNC are preferred.

THOSE WITHOUT THE ABOVE CREDENTIALS AND REQUIREMENTS NEED NOT APPLY.

Benefits: A competitive salary & benefits, a great working environment, ***plus the opportunity to build and contribute to a growing practice that is unique in Asia.***

Kindly submit your resumé and photo by e-mail to solutions@singapore.com and cite Code PD-PH. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Republic of the Philippines
BICOL UNIVERSITY
Legazpi City

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

A. Position: SUC President IV (SG-30)

B. Minimum Qualifications:
1. A Filipino citizen
2. Holder of an earned doctoral degree
3. Preferably not more than 60 years old at the time of the application
4. Has at least five (5) years of managerial and administrative experience
5. Morally upright
6. Has not been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude
7. Proven capability in resource generation and networking
8. Experience or involvement in community service

C. In addition to these qualifications, interested persons must submit the following clearances, where applicable:
1. Ombudsman
2. Civil Service Commission
3. National Bureau of Investigation
4. Regional Trial Court
5. Provincial/City Prosecutor's Office

[N.B. While the first two (2) clearances listed above are required only from applicants who are already in government service, all applicants both from government and the private sector shall submit the last three (3)]

D. Application/Nomination should be accompanied by:
1. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé and documentary evidences supportive of qualification
2. Statement of Vision, Mission and Thrusts for Bicol University
3. Medical Certificate that include results of drug tests
4. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination in a sealed envelope administered by Dr. Annaliza del Rosario of Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), Legazpi City

Interested applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of formal application, comprehensive resumé and certified supporting documents not later than December 20, 2002 to CHED Commissioner Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina c/o Ms. Jennilyn M. Salubayba at 5th Floor, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (Tel. No. (02) 638-4870) or to Mr. Renato G. Hingco, Board Secretary, Bicol University, Legazpi City (Tel. No. (052) 820-3741 or FAX No. (052) 481-1401).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

NETWORK ENGINEER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Computer Engineering or ECE
- Must have 1-2 years experience in computer networking
- Proficient with E-mail and Internet Administration

Responsibilities:
- Administers E-mail and internet clients on Linux Server
- Provides network technical support to end users
- Troubleshoots complex network and infrastructures issues
- Performs network cabling, termination, testing and installation of Network interface cards

PROJECT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Journalism, Mass Communication or English
- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software Operations
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages

PROJECT PHOTO CLERK

Qualifications:
- College graduate
- Comfortable with the use of computer office softwares
- Must be systematic and good in coordination

Responsibilities:
- Handles filing and archiving of scanned photos

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

A **REAL ESTATE** development corporation need for its expansion:

1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- ☑ Graduate of Engineering with MBA diploma
- ☑ Sound management experience in construction/real estate business
- ☑ Results oriented and dynamic with good PR

Interested parties please submit credentials and other pertinent documents to:

REALEZA Development Corporation
Unit 2-E, EDT Building, (Puso ng Bagulo)
Session Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 446-3223

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

TELEMARKETERS

- 21 to 30 years old
- At least college graduate of any course
- Telemarketing or sales experience an advantage

Please send your resumés to:

Chris Sports Plaza
18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City

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- Regular Status in the Company
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- Current Company ID
- ITR

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- 385 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City
- Unit B San Antonio Bldg., 1595 Quezon Ave., Q.C.

Or Call (632) 533-18-02 / (632) 535-7427
Website: *www.jkaccc.com* E-mail: *loans@jkaccc.com*

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Urgently Needed:

1 - Electrical Engineer
1 - Civil Engineer or Architect
5 years experience in design, estimate, project supervision

1 - Executive Assistant
Engineering or Accounting graduate
5 years experience in purchasing, cost accounting, office mgmt. of construction firm.

Apply in person at

LFD GENCON, INC.
Blk 22 Lot 7 Chrysanthemum Village,
San Pedro, Laguna
Tel. No. 808-0251; Fax No. 869-0326

Must not be more than 35 years old, bring resumé, 1x1 ID pic & latest NBI & other certificates.

GG STA. MARIA CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
NEEDS
CIVIL ENGINEER, ESTIMATOR, & PROJECT MANAGER
At least 10 years experience in vertical construction
Call Rhoda/Vicky 931-0050, 932-3986

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ROBERT L. FRANCISCO

This is notify the public that Mr. Robert L. Francisco, whose picture appears above, with last known address at Blk. 5 Lot 1 Tabon-1 Lopez Compound, Las Piñas City, is no longer connected with Body Needs and Basics, Inc. and Basic Distributors Inc. Beware of transactions made using BNBI receipts with serial numbers 84151-84200. They have been considered null and Void effective 30 July 2002.

(PDI - Nov. 17, 2002)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144/722-1155

TIMESHARE COMPANY

NEEDS EXPERIENCED TIMESHARE PEOPLE FOR ITS EXPANSION:
- Venue Manager
- Sales Manager
- Sales Consultants
- B.U. Officer
- Contracts Officer
- Receptionist
- Telemarketers
- Exhibitors

Qualifications:
- Male/Female, 21-35 years old
- Proficient in oral & written communication
- With pleasing personality
- Aggressive and highly motivated
- Willing to work evenings and weekends

Interested applicants should come in business attire on November 19 and up, 2002, 4 PM at:

Suite 1003, Prestige Tower Condominium, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

---

IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are growing Company in Fashion Design and we need:

GRAPHIC ARTIST — Proficient in Computer Graphic Software
MARKETING ARTIST — Computer literate
MERCHANDISER / DESIGNER — Creative, Innovator, Up-to-date in Fashion. Send your comprehensive resumé and Transcript of Records.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY — Knows office Procedure, Computer literate – MS Word & EXCEL
SALES DEMO — Female 18-22 yrs. old.
GARMENT SUB-CONTRACTORS w/ complete machines.

Send your application to:

ABSTRACT CREATION CORPORATION
#33 Panalturan St., Banawe Ext., Quezon City
Tel. # 365-0593 look for Emy

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be informed that **Mr. WILFREDO M. RIVERAL** is no longer connected with **E.L.K. HUMAN RESOURCES, INC.** as a Stockholder/Director or Officer. Any transaction to be entered into by him shall not be honored by said corporation effective immediately.

The Management

AN INVITATION TO BID

CARE Philippines has for sale the following vehicles on an **"AS IS WHERE IS"** basis:

No.	Plate No.	Year Model	Make/Type
1)	OEV 13663	1989	Mitsubishi Pajero
2)	OEV 19378	1996	Cherokee Jeep
3)	OEV 15370	1995	Cherokee Jeep
4)	OEV 20421	1995	Cherokee Jeep
5)	OEV 14727	1995	Cherokee Jeep

For more details, please contact CARE at tel. nos. 551-2615/16/29/1481.

There's BIG Money in Pet Foods.

The Pet Pantry has perfected the system of ***free home delivery*** of All Natural Super Premium pet foods and supplies.

The Pet Pantry franchise system is growing by leaps and bounds but there is still time for you to enjoy all of the benefits. **No Royalties. Protected Territories. Low Overhead. High Margin. Home Based Business. Little or No competition. Advertising and Marketing Support.**

The Money You make is Yours. No ongoing leases, franchise fees, rentals, dues or royalties to pay.

We'll Help You Start your Own Profitable Business. With ready customers leads as soon as you start. Followed up with advertising and sales producing ideas that promote you and your Service Business. Minimum start up capital is P350K.

The Pet Food Industry is Exploding! Food sales alone are over P500 million pesos.Pet population is increasing everyday! If you love pets and want to own a business, call *today!*

Hurry Limited Territories Available!
A01 Quezon City. A02 San Juan. A03 Pasig. A04 Mandaluyong. A05 Manila. A07 Makati. A08 Caloocan. A09 Muntinlupa. A11 Las Piñas. A13 Parañaque. A14 Valenzuela. A15 Malabon. A16 Pasay. B17 Cebu. C18 Davao. D19 Baguio. E20 Pampanga. F21 Bulacan. G22 Laguna. H23 Cavite. Other provincial areas are still available.

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Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bataan Economic Zone
Tel. Nos. (047) 935-4004; (047) 561-2451; (047) 935-5002
Fax Nos. (047) 935-6046; e-mail: bez@unet.net.ph
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as listed below:

A. PROJECT I : CONCRETING OF LUZON AVENUE
B. PROJECT II : REHABILITATION OF SFB NOS. 1, 2, 4 & 7
LOCATION : BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan

Prospective bidders must be duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered as "Medium A" for roads for Project I and Medium "B" for buildings for Project II by the Inter-Agency Committee for Registration and Classification of Contractors for Government Infrastructure projects. Eligibility requirements/forms will be made available to Contractors upon submission of the required documents at the BAC Secretariat, EMD Office, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan, as follows:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Certificate of Contractor's Renewal from PCAB and License (Bring Original copy for authentication purposes)

Name of Project	Issuance and Price of Eligibility Forms	Deadline for submission of accomplished eligibility forms	Issuance of Bid Documents	Approved Budget for the Contract	Duration of Contract	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	Submission and Opening of Bids	Price of Non-refundable fee for Bid Documents
Project I: Concreting of Luzon Avenue	Php 200.00 Nov. 19-26, 2002 BAC Secretariat, EMD Off., 2nd flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	November 29, 2002 5:00 P.M. BAC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Dec. 5-6, 2002 BAC Secretariat, 2nd flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Php 14,222,635.00	210 CD	Dec. 10, 2002 2:00 P.M. Audio-Visual Rm. 2nd Flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Dec. 19, 2002 2:00 P.M. Audio-Visual Rm., 2nd Flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Php 2,500.00 Finance Div. Grd. Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.

SCOPE OF WORK:
1. Removal of existing asphalt pavement
2. Portland Cement Concrete Pavement 12, 940.00 sq.m.; 230 mm thick
3. Removal and reconstruction of curbs & gutters and sidewalk
4. Aggregate base course
5. Bituminous tack coat and Bituminous Concrete Surface Course

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT I:
1. One (1) unit batching plant (owned/leased)
2. Two (2) units Transit mixer (owned/leased)
3. One (1) unit Payloader (owned)
4. One (1) unit Backhoe with pavement breaker (owned)
5. One (1) unit Road Grader (owned)
6. One (1) unit Vibratory roller (owned)
7. One (1) unit Water Truck (owned)
8. One (1) unit Concrete Screeder (owned)
9. Two (2) units Concrete Mixer (one-bagger, owned)
10. Two (2) units Concrete Vibrator (owend)

Name of Project	Issuance and Price of Eligibility Forms	Deadline for submission of accomplished eligibility forms	Issuance of Bid Documents	Approved Budget for the Contract	Duration of Contract	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	Submission and opening of Bids	Price of Non-refundable fee for Bid Documents
B. Rehabilitation of SFB Nos. 1, 2, 4 & 7	Php 200.00 Nov. 25-, Dec. 2, 2002 BAC-Secretariat, EMD Off., 2nd flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Dec. 6, 2002 5:00 P.M. BAC Secretariat, EMD Off., 2nd Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Dec. 10 & 11, 2002 BAC Secretariat, EMD Off., 2nd flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Php 27,269,702.00	365 CD	Dec. 16, 2002 2:00 P.M. Audio-Visual Rm. 2nd Flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Dec. 26, 2002 2:00 P.M. Audio-Visual Rm., 2nd Flr. BEZ Admin. Bldg.	Php 3,000.00 Finance Div. Grd. Flr., BEZ Admin. Bldg.

SCOPE OF WORK:
1. Re-roofing
2. Rehab/repair of comfort rooms
3. Plumbing fixtures and fittings
4. Repainting of exterior and interior walls
5. Tileworks and glass and glazing
6. Electrical Works
7. Replacement of ceiling eaves and downspouts
8. Other repair works

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted and the provisions of Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply in the biddings.

For further particulars, please contact Ms. Catalina Desamito/Engr. Aniceto P. Gonzales, BAC Secretariat EMD Office, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Bldg., BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan or at Tel. No. (047) 936-4008.

The PEZA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. The Peza neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) DIONISIO T. SAMEN
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI — Nov. 17 & 24, 2002)

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JOB MARKET

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City
Tel. No.: 2093-644, 2093-645 (Telefax)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : Nov. 13, 2002

The **SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I)** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items for its expansion projects funded by the government subsidy fund:

Various electrical hardwares and equipment

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and obtain bidding documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must submit/ meet the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

1. company profile;
2. list of clients

For purpose of clarification and to discuss the details of the item due for bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 19, 2002 at 2:00 PM** at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before **2:00 PM on November 22, 2002** accompanied by bidders bond in cash or cashier's check equivalent to **five percent (5%)** of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or the bidder's representative at the address above at **2:00 PM on November 22, 2002.**

The Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Tel. 925-2401

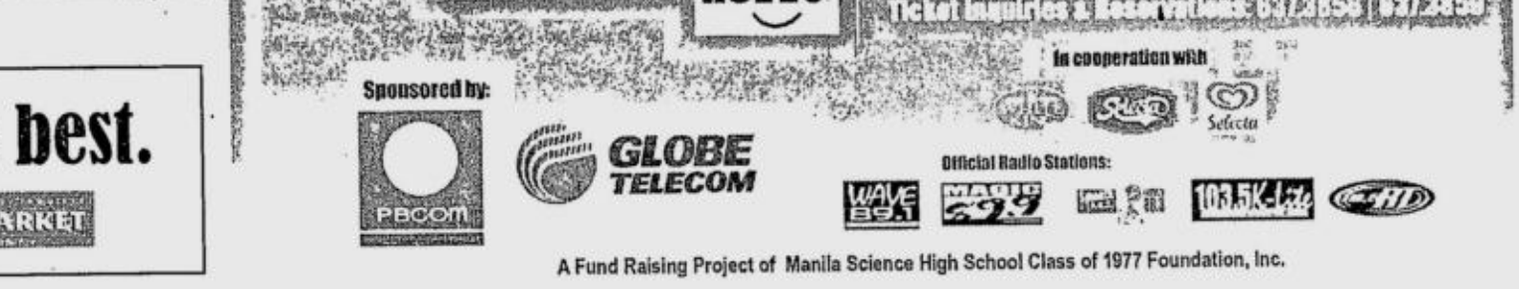
INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that **OLD X-RAY MACHINE**, etc. will be sold through sealed bids by the Disposal Committee for equipment on an "as-is, where-is" basis on **November 28, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the Pacemaker Room, Basement Medical Arts Building.

Bid form, terms and conditions and details of items to be bided out may be obtained from **Mr. ZOILO LUNA** of Property Section.

(Sgd.) **ZYLMA M. SANCHEZ**
Chairman, Disposal Committee for Equipment

(PDI - Nov 16, 17 & 18 2002)



Venue: Performing Arts Theater, University of Perpetual Help System Laguna. Binan, Laguna
Date: Nov. 23, 2002 (Saturday)

9:00 am - 11:15 am
ACHIEVING YOUR PERSONAL VISION IN TROUBLED TIMES
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., will discuss what is personal vision and how you can develop one. She will discuss career alternatives and how you can pursue your dream. She will give tips on how to get your dream job or start your own business.

1:00 pm - 3:15 pm
DEVELOPING A POWER IMAGE FOR LEADERSHIP
MARIECOR SALAS DING , President, MSD Personnel Development Consultants, will talk on the importance of a professional image and personality. She will discuss how to develop the visual poise and posture that mark leaders. She will give give tips on how to dress for success, use color analysis for a better impression and grooming strategies.

3:30 pm - 5:45pm
NEGOTIATING YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center will provide knowledge and skills on the basic concepts and steps in negotiation. He will tackle the preparations needed for negotiations and the strategies and tactics necessary for successful negotiations. He will show how to achieve win-win in negotiation and profile the characteristics of a successful negotiator.

REGISTRATION FEE PER SESSION: P300. Limited discounted tickets for teachers and gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%). The fee includes handouts and certificate of completion.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, call **OPTIMUS MANAGERS & ADVISORS, INC.** at **(632) 935-6678** or email **optima@edsamail.com.ph** or visit:

Office of Dean Susana A. Mendiola, College of Business, University of Perpetual Help System Laguna, Rm. 139 JLT Bldg. UPHSL or call 049-411-1683.

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AMBASSADOR EMILIO D. BEJASA

Died peacefully at the age of 88
on 8 November 2002
in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

His beloved wife **Rosie** *(†); his children* **Renato** *&* **Marina**, **Emil** *(†) &* **Eileen**, **Bes** *&* **Techie**, **Lei** *&* **Ed Reyes**, **Dee**, **Noel** *and* **Cindy**, **Mita** *&* **Rene Ocampo**, **Gina** *&* **Jose Luis Moreno**, **Maribelle** *&* **Orly Dyoco**, **Lita** *&* **Albert de Vivo** *and* **Joy**; *grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will take place at the Bauan Cemetery on Wednesday morning, 20 November 2002.

FLORITO DELARIARTE TOGONON

of Dumangas, Iloilo

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 14, 2002
at the age of 80.

His beloved wife **Amparo Majarucon Togonon**

Children **Edwin**, **Edmund** and **Vicky** (Herrera), **Edward** and **Glenda** (Garcia), **Eden** and **Evelyn** (Sancho), **Edefa** and **Henry** (Dumaplin), **Edela**, **Edelyn**, **Edray** and **Leosie** (Baston) and **Ed Marie**

Grandchildren **John-John** and **Lenny**, **Ivan**, **Aissa**, **Lara**, **Inah** and **Kaye**

Brother **Floresto**; sisters **Profiteza**, **Preciosa**, **Emma** and **Elma**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the family residence in Dumangas, Iloilo.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 23, 2002 at 12:00 p.m. at the family estate in Dumangas, Iloilo after the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the family residence.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary
of

ARTURO DARLUCIO ZABALA

April 12, 1943 - November 17, 2001

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant;
enter thou into the joy of the Lord."

from your loving wife **Anita**; children **Daniel** & **Arlene**, **Arnold** & **Marifi**, **Hector** & **Earnest**, **Cecilia** & **James**, and grandchildren

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

DELICIA "CHUCHI" MALUBAY PARENTELA

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on November 14, 2002 at the age of 71.

Children, family and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sampaloc Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 19, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the 3rd Year Death Anniversary of

MARILOU C. LLAGAS

who died in the Grace of our Lord on November 17, 1999

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember her in their prayer.

On the occasion of the First Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved sister,

SALVACION L. SIN

on November 18, 2002, Holy Masses will be offered by:

His Eminence Jaime L. Cardinal Sin

Bishop Teodoro Bacani
Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes of Kalibo, Aklan
Bishop Raul Martires
Bishop Socrates Villegas
Bishop Jesse Mercado
Bishop Nestor Cariño
Msgr. Josefino Ramirez
Msgr. Roberto Canlas
Msgr. Jose Abriol
Msgr. Rolando dela Cruz
Father Jun Sescon
Father David Concepcion
Father Isidro Marinay
Father Edwin Mercado
Father Nolan Que
Father Jason Laguerta
Father Joel Jason
Father Ferdinand Santos
Father Carlo Marcelo Magno
Father Estilito Villegas
Father Lorenz Festin
Father Manuel Nery
Father Dennis Odiver
Father Carlos Reyes
Father Maxell Aranilla
Father Lincoln Carabaña
Father Fausto Gomez, O.P.
Father Pompeyo de Mesa, O.P.
Father John Barro

And at the Holy Family Parish Church, Kamias, Quezon City on November 18, 2002 at 6:00 a.m.

May we request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Requested by Dr. Ramon L. Sin

"Truly goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

In Loving Memory
On the thirtieth (30th) Death Anniversary
Of

PABLO B. BULACLAC

June 30, 1909 – November 17, 1972

His wife, Loreto (†),

Children,
Joe (†) & Carol Pastores (†)
Mila & Manny Ronquillo
Bee & Romy Infantado
Jess & Gie Roxas
Jun and Jojo Bantequi
and Ting

Grandchildren
Chito & Kate,
Mickey, Archie, Alvin & Buboy,
Bing, Bobee and Jonbee,
Jerry, Jenny & Igi Boy,
Bryan and Ronnie
and Christine

and great grandchildren request relatives friends and pious readers to include **PABLING** in their prayers.

Masses will be offered at:

	Anticipated Mass		
Our Lady of Angelus	November 16	5:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m. and all masses for the whole month of November
Rego Park, New York	November 17	8:30 a.m.	
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:30 a.m.	
Cathedral of St. Patrick		8:00 a.m.	
Madison Avenue, New York City		8:30 a.m.	
Blessed Sacrament Parish		6:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Sta. Cruz, Manila		7:00 a.m.	3:30 p.m.
		8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
		10:45 a.m.	7:15 p.m.
Redemptorist Church		6:00 a.m.	
Baclaran, Parañaque			

YORK

YORK CASKETS are crafted in the United States to provide each family the highest standards of quality, design and value. The extensive selection of styles, colors, materials and interiors provides a fitting tribute to your departed loved ones

... because they deserve only the best.

*For more information, please call your funeral director.

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
PROJECT MANAGEMENT/
ACQUIRED ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

The **HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION (HGC)** hereby invites offers to purchase by way of cash sealed bids on the following property/ies:

PARTICULARS	LOCATION	AREA (SQ.M.)	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1. Four (4)-dr apartment w/ living, dining, bedroom I. 1 unit 2 storey FA 33.75 II. 1 unit 2 storey FA 33.75 III. 1 unit 1 storey FA 18.93 IV. 1 unit 1 storey FA 120.69 TCT No. PT-90396	Lot 2 Pcs 13-003683 Vegaville Compound Velasco Avenue, Pinagbuhatan Pasig City	252	P2,069,000.00
2. One (1) storey res. unit Three (3) bedrooms One (1) TB Floor Area - 63 sq.m. TCT No. 160652	No. 175(B7 L13) Tangerine St. Felicisima Subd. Bgy. Mojon Malolos, Bulacan	240	P923,000.00
3. One (1) res. condominium unit Three (3) bedrooms, Two (2) TB W/ maid's quarter/parking slot Floor Area - 169.35 CCT No. 10607-R	Unit 404 Goldhill Tower Condo. No. 5 Annapolis St., Bgy. Greenhills, San Juan, MM		P5,715,000.00

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's cheque payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the property/ies subject of public bidding to see for himself its/their actual condition. All properties are being sold on "as is" basis. Particulars may be obtained from the Project Management/Acquired Assets Disposition Group at the 2nd Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call **752-5326** or **751-3808**.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 p.m. on **November 20, 2002** at the HGC Head Office, Ground Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL DELOS SANTOS**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2002)

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas Department of Foreign Affairs

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs invites all interested parties to prequalify and to submit sealed bids for the following services:

A. **CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRE SERVICES**
B. **DIPLOMATIC POUCH SERVICES**
C. **PEST CONTROL SERVICES**

Bid documents may be secured from the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, beginning **Wednesday, 20 November 2002** after payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP1,000.00 for the prequalification documents and processing of the same for each of the above service. Prequalification requirements should be submitted on or before the dates specified below for each service. For purposes of clarifying certain issues, pre-bid conferences may be held upon determination by the PBAC.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for these services will be distributed to the prequalified bidders after payment of non-refundable administrative fee of PhP5,000.00 to the PBAC Secretariat. Sealed bids shall be submitted to the PBAC not later than the dates specified below and thereafter shall be publicly opened on the dates and venue also specified below:

ACTIVITY	CANTEEN SERVICES	DIPLOMATIC POUCH	PEST CONTROL
Submission of Prequal Docs	18 Dec 2002, 1700H (deadline)	19 Dec 2002, 1700H (deadline)	20 Dec 2002, 1700H (deadline)
Submission of Sealed Bids	29 Jan 2003, 1400H (deadline)	30 Jan 2003, 1400H (deadline)	31 Jan 2003, 1400H (deadline)
Opening of Sealed Bids	29 Jan 2003, 1500H	30 Jan 2003, 1500H	31 Jan 2003, 1500H

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the Department. The Department assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. The Department also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the contract.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary for Administration
and PBAC Chairperson

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 12
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 12 (DA-RFU 12) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF FARM EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES

I. WAREHOUSE
- Model FLGC II
  - Warehouse 12m x 20m inclusive of processing area (6m x 12m) and storage area (12m x 12m)
  - Office space (3m x 4m)
  - Concrete Drying Pavement (2 x 6m x 20m)
- Design and Detailed Estimates at NAFC Office

II. SOLAR DRYER
- Has an area of 125m x 20m = 2500 sq.m. and 4" thickness
- Concrete mixture - class B (1:2.5:5.5)
- With re-bar 9mm @ 50cm o.c. spacing

III. BOOMSPRAYER
- 6 - M length
- Folding type
- One (1) cu.m. tank capacity

IV. MECHANICAL PLANTER WITH FERTILIZER APPLICATOR
- Four (4) rows
- Adjustable row spacing
- Individual seed hopper
- Two (2) fertilizer hopper

V. MECHANICAL DRYER
a. Classification - Batch, re circulating
b. Bin Type - Vertical
c. Capacity - Eight (8) tons
d. Heating System - Direct fire
e. Burning System - Spray gun
f. Fuel - Kerosene
g. Fan Type - Tube axial
h. Handling System - Mechanical bucket elevator
i. Control System - Fully automatic
j. Indirect aspirator and grain spreading

VI. FOUR (4) ROWS CULTIVATOR

VII. 75HP TRACTORS WITH ATTACHMENTS
- Four (4) wheel drive
- Fully hydraulic power steering
- Water Cooling pressurized with water pump radiator
- PTO type, rear positioned, independent
- PTO speed, 540 - 1000 rpm
- Differential lock - Hydro-mechanically operated
- With the following attachments:
  a. DISC PLOW
  - Four (4) blades
  - 660 mm disc diameter
  b. DISC HARROW
  - Eighteen (18) blades
  - 560 mm Disc diameter
  c. TAILER
  - Pneumatic type with spring and shock absorber support

VIII. CHISELPLOW
- Nine (9) shanks

IX. 135HP TRACTORS WITH ACCESSORIES 4 WD

X. FORWARD TRUCKHAULER
- Ten (10) tons capacity
- Six (6) wheelers
- Aluminum siding, drop-type
- 900A - A-Ply tire

XI. ELF TRUCKHAULER
- With front drive
- Six (6) wheelers
- Siding: Drop-Type

XII. MINI FEEDMILL
- 1 - Hammer mill - 1 ton/hr. capacity
- 1 - Micro-mixer - 100 kg. - per batch capacity
- 1 - Mix - 1 ton per batch capacity
- 1 - Pelletizing machine - 1 ton/hr. capacity
- 1 - Bagger / Sewing machine
- 1 - Weighing Scale : Flat - bed type
- 2 - Weighing Scale 50 kg. Capacity

XIII. MECHANICAL CORN SHELLER
- Minimum Shelling Recovery - 97%
- Minimum Shelling Efficiency - 99.5%
- Minimum Purity - 98%
- DB (a) Noise Level Maximum - 100%
- Closed, Single Cylinder
- Peg Teeth
- HP Power Engine

Interested parties must submit to the BAC Secretariat c/o Property and Supply Unit, DA-RFU 12, Cotabato City or at the DA Central Office, Legal Service, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than November 18, 2002 the following documents:

1. Letter of Intent;
2. Clear Photocopies of DTI or SEC Registration;
3. Updated Mayor's Permit;
4. VAT/NON VAT Registration;
5. ITR duly stamped by the BIR;
6. Audited Financial Report for 2 recent years; and
7. Documentary evidence showing that they have a service center in Region 12

Bring original for authentication of the xerox copies.

Tender documents may be obtained for a minimal fee of P250.00 from the BAC Secretariat c/o Property and Supply Unit, DA-RFU 12 Cotabato City or at the DA Central Office, Legal Service, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, after submission of the required pre-qualification documents stated above.

A pre-bid conference will be held on November 20, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. at the Conference Room, Department of Agriculture, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. All proposals must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on November 25, 2002 at 8:30 a.m., DA Koronadal, South Cotabato, at which time and date, the bids will be opened in the presence of all qualified bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidders Bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total budget for the Contract either in Cash, Manager Check or GSIS bid bond.

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids or part thereof, waive any required formality therein, accept proposals deemed advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDUARDO E. GARCIA**
Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee
Per Special Order No. 474
Series of 2002

(PDI--Nov. 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture, and Sports
Third Elementary Education Project

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: November 11, 2002
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. PISU-CO/242002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education (DEPED) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of School Kits to Selected Public Elementary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education (DEPED), Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Standard School and Classroom Kits to Selected Public Elementary Schools in the Philippines.
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of Standard School and Classroom Kits to public or private schools in remote areas in a developing country like the Philippines. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. # (632) 636-65-43 or 632-13-61 local 2019.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **November 11, 2002** upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00).
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.*
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 10:00 AM on **January 3, 2003** and must be accompanied by a security of not less than two (2) percent of total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 AM on **January 8, 2003** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **December 3, 2002**, 10:00 AM at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 15, 17 & 20, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee

Bldg. No. 3, San Lazaro Cmpd.
Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telefax No. 743-7236
Trunkline No. 743-8301
Local 1338

INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No.: 1396-PH(SF)
IFB No.: ICHSP-2002-004LAN

1. The Government of the Philippines through the **Department of Health (DOH)** has received a loan from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** towards the cost of the **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP)**, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Local Area Network Equipment to ICHSP Replication Provinces.**
2. The DOH desires to procure the Goods described and itemized in the Bid Document through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Local Area Network Equipment to ICHSP Replication Provinces.

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 18, 2002	
Deadline of Issuance of Bid Documents	December 6, 2002	
Pre-Bid Conference	November 25, 2002	1:00 PM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	December 9, 2002	1:00 PM
Opening of Bids	December 9, 2002	1:01 PM

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the **Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2nd Floor, Building 25, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.**
4. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP5,000.00)** or **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$250.00)** including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be in cash, or in the form of a bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the **ICHSP Conference Room, 4th Flr., Philippine Tuberculosis Society Society (PTS) Building, Tayuman St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.**
6. Bids must be delivered to the address stated below on or before the deadline of submission of bids, after which all bids will be immediately opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of the Total Bid Price in the currency of the bid or any freely convertible currency. Late bids shall be rejected.

ICHSP CONFERENCE ROOM
4th Floor, Philippine Tuberculosis Society Building,
Tayuman Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila

7. The DOH reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI--Nov. 17 & 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Amendment to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Reduction in Rate of the Electric Cooperatives Due to the Condonation of Debts

Notice is hereby given that the "Guidelines for the Implementation of the Reduction in Rate of Electric Cooperatives Due to the Condonation of Debts" promulgated by the Energy Regulatory Commission on October 21, 2002 was amended as follows:

1. Section 2 of Article III of said guidelines is amended to include as its last paragraph the following:

   "The preceding paragraphs shall not preclude the electric cooperatives from filing joint or omnibus applications; Provided, That the conditions set herein are complied with."

2. A new paragraph is inserted as the new Section 3 of Article III of said Guidelines to be read as follows:

   "Section 3. Failure to File with the ERC. In cases where the concerned electric cooperatives fail to file the applications without valid reasons, appropriate penalties shall be imposed upon them pursuant to the "Guidelines to Govern the Imposition of Administrative Sanctions in the Form of Fines and Penalties" and the ERC shall motu propio reduce their rates commensurate with the savings due to the removal of the amortization-payments of their loans using as basis their unbundling of rates applications and the supporting documents."

3. In view of the insertion of a new provision as the new Section 3, the old Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Article III of the Guidelines are accordingly renumbered as Section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of said Article III.
4. These amendments shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Pasig City, November 15, 2002

(Sgd.) **LECITIA V. IBAY**
Acting Chairman

(Sgd.) **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **OLIVER B. BUTALID**
Commissioner

(Sgd.) **CARLOS R. ALINDADA**
Commissioner

(PDI - Nov. 17, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

We Lovingly Remember Our Dear

FEVI V. PURISIMA

on the 13th Anniversary of her birth
to eternal life (November 17, 1989)

Husband **Fidel**; children **Cesar, Dalia** and **Grace**; sons-in-law and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered in the following churches:

Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, *Gen. Santos City*
St. Jude Parish, *Warrensville, Ohio*
Sacred Heart Parish, *Kamuning, Quezon City*
St. Joseph's Convent of Perpetual Adorations, *Hemady St., Quezon City*
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, *Damar Village, Quezon City*
St. James the Great Parish, *Alabang, Muntinlupa City*
St. Jerome and Sta. Susanna Parish, *Alabang, Muntinlupa City*

We, the family of the late

ANGELITO F. TAYO

who passed away last November 4, 2002

wishes to express our whole hearted gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends for their kind expression of love and sympathy.

From:
Loving wife **Tess**; children **Mark, Rachel** and **Bianca**. Parents **Mr.** and **Mrs. Bienvenido F. Tayo,** and children; and **Mr.** and **Mrs. Lucio Gianan** and children.

We, the family and relatives of the late

EPIFANIA VILLACORTE YAP
"FANNIE"

who peacefully joined her Creator
on November 1, 2002

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immeasurable ways were just there for us when we needed it most.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

DANTE FAJARDO DELA FUENTE

who joined his Creator on November 9, 2002

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

AMA Computer University
Asia's 1st and Largest IT University®

ISO 9001

22 years of dedication

"We have to come closer to the market to deliver quality education at the least possible cost."

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V

AMA shares and celebrates 22 years with you

This year, as the university turns 22, AMA students in all AMA schools have more reasons to celebrate.

Enrolled students may join and win in the special raffle promo to be drawn on Dec. 22. At stake are *22 brand new PENTIUM 4 personal computers, 22 cellular phones with SIM Pack, and 22 SIM packs* for each of the university campuses.

For new enrollees and transferees, we shall give a 22% discount on tuition and miscellaneous fees from Nov. 18 to Dec. 18, 2002.

- Promo is open to all freshmen and transferees for the 3rd Trimester SY 2002-03 & 1st Trimester for SY 2003-04.
- Students should pay the full amount for the whole trimester to avail the promo discount.
- Students are required to enroll a minimum load of 15 units per trimester.
- Should the student decide to withdraw within the trimester, the existing policies on withdrawal applies.
- Deferment allowed within the school year provided that there is a written notice from the student.
- The promo is non-transferable.

See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4672, Series of 2002

LUCKY 13

AMA Computer University, the first and largest ICT university in Asia began operations in 1980, with a mere 13 students. Its pioneering vision has been the spirit behind its success. The idea sparked in the heart of AMA founder, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, has been to bring education where the students are, to places like secondary cities and provincial centers. And equally important, he wants to make it affordable, so more Filipinos can gain the advantage of learning what the rest of the world learns. He believes in giving every human being a sense of empowerment - through skills and training.

With the school celebrating its 22nd year, AMA now has over 150,000 students and over 200 campuses in the Philippines and other parts of the world. It has achieved many firsts, many milestones that are unparalleled in the educational scene in the Philippines and even in the region. Among the many firsts were: the first to offer degree courses in Computer Science and Computer Engineering, the first to offer e-learning, one-to-one computer-to-student ratio, the first to offer mechatronics and the first Philippine school to make the grade and earn its ISO 9001: 2000 Certification. It has also strategically enhanced its edge over other computer institutions by garnering the most prestigious partnerships with leading international IT companies and academic institutions like Microsoft, Cisco, AVAYA, University of California and many others. Finally, AMA is the first and still the only university offering IT enhancement for all of its courses, even in general education and the arts.

Since 1980, AMA's stellar contribution to our developing nation is painstakingly educating more than 140,000 Filipino students in an innovative field and gearing them for gainful employment in the toughest, highly-competitive job arenas all over the world. It is a proud AMA achievement to help make a name for the Philippines as the leading provider of competent computer manpower in Asia.

BEYOND 7,100 ISLANDS

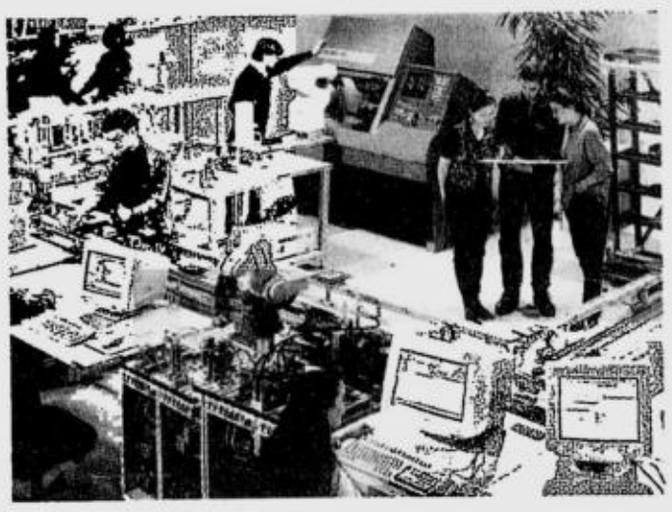
University President Dr. Aguiluz V and AMAES President Aguiluz IX showing H.H Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa. Prime Minister of the State of Bahrain the AMA International University Bahrain campus.

As the country's top ICT education provider, AMA has stepped up to the global stage, opening schools in various countries. Its latest campus was inaugurated in Bahrain to bring high quality education to locals, expats and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

The AMA International University Bahrain offers full degree and certificate programs. By going to the Middle east, AMA can help uplift computer literacy, upgrade the technical skills and sharpen the competitive edge of the more than 1.5 million Filipino workers who work in the region.

To date, AMA has other international campuses in Bangladesh, Hongkong and the United States with others soon to open in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the People's Republic of China.

MAKE YOUR OWN ROBOT



The pioneering spirit.is alive and well at AMA, as another innovative doorway opens to student. AMA is developing the first university degree course in BS Mechatronics. This is a combination course that integrates precision mechanical engineering, applied robotics, artificial intelligence and device automation and control. It is the new horizon in global technology.

Graduates of the course will find leading-edge opportunities in manufacturing, defense and security systems, transportation, communications and other fields.

CYBERPARTNERS

AMA recognizes the importance of staying at the forefront of IT, taking its students as close as possible to the real world, the real workplace. It has established partnerships with the most prestigious international technology companies and institutions. These partnerships enable AMA to keep apace with the highest global standards, preparing its graduates to compete on equal footing with the best in the world.

AMA-MICROSOFT PREMIERE EDUCATION PARTNER
The Microsoft alliance gives AMA students first-in-line exposure to the latest Microsoft software, through its integration into the curriculum.

AVAYA
AMA has been appointed exclusive Authorized Training Center (ATC) for the ASEAN, assuring its students of top industry-standard training and accredited diploma courses for the Systemax Structured Cabling System.

CISCO SYSTEMS NETWORKING ACADEMY
Cisco Systems appointed AMA as regional academy for the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) offering students the opportunity to earn prestigious Cisco certifications.

SMART FORCE
With the SmartForce USA-AMA alliance, the school's curriculum is sharpened and enriched with the e-learning approach for ICT skills training.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY
Enrolling in the University of California-Berkeley's program called the Great Exploration on Mathematics and Science (GEMS), a reputable and excellent multi-media instruction module, is only possible with the alliance AMA has strategically forged with the respected California institution.

NCC EDUCATION
The tie-up of AMA with the National Computing Center of the UK opens vital London-based diploma courses to Filipinos. Many specialized courses prepare students for the most stringent job requirements in the IT world.

STUDY NOW, PAY LATER AND SUBSIDIZED TUITION FEES

In 1985, the AMA Foundation was created to fulfill another noble objective envisioned by Dr. Aguiluz. Its mission — to help expand the educational opportunities of Filipinos through programs that offer financial assistance to deserving but economically disadvantaged students and faculty. The Foundation stands for a helping hand, towards easier access to quality education.

The Student Loan Program was launched in cooperation with AMA Bank. A special fund of P400 million was set up, offering low-interest tuition loans on 10-year payback plans. This is in addition to Study Now, Pay Later plans, subsidized tuition fees and straightforward academic scholarships

At present there are 200 academic scholars every trimester who enjoy the program's full assistance. The AMA Foundation also conducts many free training seminars and workshops open to public school teachers and students, an active effort to trickle down the benefits of high quality computer education to as many Filipinos as possible.

AMA Board of Trustees

Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V	-	Chairman
Cielo C. Aguiluz	-	Trustee
Amable C. Aguiluz IX	-	Trustee
Christine K. Aguiluz	-	Trustee
Ma. Angela C. Aguiluz	-	Trustee
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AMA Foundation, Inc.
Council of Advisers

Hon. Onofre Corpuz, PhD
Hon. Leticia Ramos-Shahani
Hon. Angel Alcala, PhD
Hon. Victor Macalincag

BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY

Utilizing the latest technological developments, AMA Computer University links its multi-campuses nationwide via an enhanced Wide Area Network (WAN). It has established a dynamic partnership with telecom giants Bayantel and Digitel to create this 24/7 efficient point-to-point and point-to-multipoint service. High speed Internet (via its own DS3 bandwidth, 45 Mbps) and high grade access between and among the many AMA campuses will mean improved research capability and collaboration, resource sharing and learning processes. With just a click of the mouse, communication convenience will be delivered to AMA community members instantaneously. This means the birth of the truly *intelligent campus.*

MESSAGES

"It is my distinct pleasure to greet the AMA Computer University...

I congratulate you for your visionary outlook... May your heightened commitment to make our educational system more globally competitive and accessible to those who need it most result to more success in the future."

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Republicof the Philippines

Today, we celebrate 22 glorious years of continuous advocacy on ICT education, steadfast leadership in the academe, and a zealous ambition to empower more Filipinos anywhere in the world.

It is with distinct pride that I congratulate the AMA Education System for having realized its vision to position itself at the forefront of global competition. The inauguration of AMA International campuses in the Middle East, Asia and United States has made quality ICT education more accessible to more parts of the world.

The past two decades have been remarkably fruitful for this institution. It has proven its excellence and leadership in Information and Communications Technology through its students who win awards in international IT competitions, its graduates who are now making waves in the industry, and its faculty who comprises the best in the in the academe.

To everyone who has contributed in bringing AMA Education System to where it is now, and where it will be in the future - our officers, employees, faculty, students, and education partners - my sincerest appreciation.

More power to all of us!

DR. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
University President
AMA Computer University

It has been twenty-two years since our Founder, the First University President of AMA Computer University, established the first computer school in the Philippines with only 13 students. Through sheer determination, hard work and perseverance, we have grown to over 200 campuses and 160,000 students here and abroad.

Our vision remains clear and we remain the leader and dominant provider of relevant and internationally recognized information technology-based education in the global market. With your continued support and cooperation, we will strive to reach even greater heights.

Congratulations to all our officers and staff, our students and alumni, our faculty and academic leaders. The glory is yours.

More power to all of you!

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
President
AMA Educational System

FAR AND WIDE

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Financing Ok!

Enjoy Life...Naturally
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Undev 0919-3279260

ALABANG

HOUSE 4 RENT AAV 3BDRMS
3TB F/F TEL 8071133 P 60T

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

PRIME COMMERCIAL FOR RENT QUEZON CITY
East Ave., beside SSS HQ.
Vacant Lot 2,952 sqm.
Frontage 21 Meters
Ideal for Retail Arcade
Rent P150/sqm./month
Long Term Lease
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tel. nos.: 818-2781/751-5472

HOUSE

MARIKINA

Monte Vista Subd 6819407

PARANAQUE

2 STOREY 3BR 3TB w/ TELPHONE
8253655/09179281862

BLS P'que P11,000.00 pls. txt Marivic Abello 09178920212 or 09178300401

QUEZON CITY

CAPITOL EST 3flr 3br3tb grge w/qtr renovated 4279953
0919-4235801/0916-4418551

BAGUIO

Bung 2br FF nr PMA 9125847

VARIOUS AREAS

BEL AIR•DASMA•FORBES•MAGSANLO•URD•GRNHILLS & other 40T up Rent/Sale 637-9562

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

ASPEN TOWER 1BDRM F/F
P45T TEL 8071133

MAKATI

1BR FULLY FURNISHED SALCEDO VILL. MAKATI 8423424

ASIATOWER 8447153 Tracy

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
OXFORD SUITES FF
ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
10MINS.FR.ROCKWELL
NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE.
7594091*7522580
0917-2551480

BRAND NEW STUDIO
very clean w/security guard
Impressive lobby w/ elevator
P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years
1672 Dian St Mkti nr Buendia
Call Rose
8439418 • 5369509

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR
Salcedo Village, Makati,
43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF
7594091*7522580*7592335

Palm Village Nr. Rockwell
3BR 21T/mo. 0917-3955738

MANILA

Burgundy Westbay Twr
Comm'l units available
Ideal 4 ofc/clinic/logistics
V.Cruz Taft-40-90m²
752-2580/303-0673/759-4802

MANDALUYONG

STUDIO SEMIFURN 33m² GOV PLACE SHAW BLVD 10T+DUES & UTILITIES 0917-894-4871

PARANAQUE

2BDRM 2TB P10T TEL 8071133
BF HOMES PARANAQUE

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216sqm Alexandra Condo
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QUEZON CITY

Townhouse 2BR 2TB with Attic Garage 723-73-51

4BR Nr N. Mla 25T 727-4840

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P6500/mo. Call Jojo
7121690 / Txt 09193914791

Condotel in T.Morato QC
1BR Furn Nice & Cozy
P1200/nite 0917-5341014

NR ABS CBN 1BR 4167722

VARIOUS AREAS

SALCEDO•LEGASPI•MANDA
•QC•ROXAS STD 123BR 10T up Rent/Sale IMUP 637-9562

APARTMENT

MAKATI

nr AYALA w/grge P12T 8708848

U/D BIG La Paz 10K T5343147

MANILA

3BR near UST 7324499 / 7814814

5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154586

2BR BALIC². SAMP 7136110

New 2BR w/Tel. • 742-1029

SAMPALOC U/D nrUST 9122304

Studio Fully Furn Malate nr DLSU ST. SCHO, PGH, PWU 523-5465

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT AT LOYOLA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY
(near Ateneo)
For Inquiries: 436-1779; 436-0702; 426-6737

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

HWYHILS 2BR U/D 8212091

PARANAQUE

2BR MNWLK #5275941/5241365

PASAY

2BR 1TB Parking 8.5T 8442336

QUEZON CITY

1BR Ateneo / Estwd 6815834

2BR Nr Sch 6,500 454-7134

3BR Grge 76 Sct. Chuatoco Roxas Dist. 410-2488, 931-7801

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

★ E. Garcia nr Edsa Up & Down Call Engr Jess 9264301

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

MAKATI NR. DON BOSCO 28m² 8.4T 5249234 / 09165172609

Warehse 4 Lease 2500sqm covered #49 2nd Ave Bicutan Tom 09175349405 Brokers Are Welcome

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Lady Professionals P2T Cuenca, Pasay 831-5026

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New Ladies Dorm Accept Reviewers T-6451185 Nr UST

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DORM IN A CONDO-4K BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO ALSO AVAIL. 4RENT: 1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS 7522580*0917-8370184

Resdn'l/Clean/Furnis/Male/2PerRm/SingleBd T897-3770

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524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

CORINTHIAN PLAZA OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE 380 SQM, 250 SQM GRND FLR. FOR INQUIRIES CALL 811-31-83/811-32-80

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Near Pioneer & San Miguel Ave
288sqm @P550.00/sqm
Ideal For Travel Agency, Showroom, Office & Banks
Call Julie 6317391

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2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Libis Office Space 200m² P50T Mercury Ave 911-5403

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

4BR 2TB 606 MOONWALK PARANAQUE CALL CORA 09178399870 2776050 BEL 9230380

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MANILA

4Bldg. nrDLSU & 1Apt 8992148

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

Condo Units for lease/sale 2-3 BR, 1-2 TB, w/PLDT tel line, near C5 & Ortigas Look for Gerry/Effie @ 6710329, 6715418, 0917-7368142

Mkt. Studio/2BR 10T up/No Due Free Prkg/H20 Tel/Secu 8906374

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

1BR UNIT 4 RENT/SALE 50 SQM, SALA, KITCHEN, PRKG W/ IN MKTI, ACCESSIBLE C2 APPRECIATE; 4 DETAILS CALL 7262210, 09178733314

BMW

BMW 316I 96 Model 680T Neg. • 0917-2429078

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

1999 HONDA VITEC, gray good cond. 1st owner look for Gerry 0917-7368142 0917-2416045, 6710329

2002 HONDA HRV 3-mos Low Mileage Owner leaving Country 0916-3438491

HYUNDAI

2001 HYUNDAI ATOZ 238t very cute like echo can test drive anytime 7317984/6550

99KIA PREGIO 345T 7316550

Grace 199t, 97H-100 225t 98Starex 475t,'01Starex 690t all power Free LTO registra'n Financing OKI 7317984/6550

KIA

96BESTA 145T ASIS 7317984

MERCEDES

97 MB100 340T 0919-2843426

MITSUBISHI

'82 Box Type P48 / P80T 6438927

94Galant VR6 58k km Orig Own/Top Cond 813-7566/P325,000

95 GLXI 44T KM 215T 8221562

'96LncrEL 182T / '92Toyota CrlaXE 157T 09177872830

'97 EX 150T 09176159929

NISSAN

97Cefiro 34K Km Orig Own/Top Cond 813-7566/P400,000

97SENTRA SS 278T 7317984

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

Sentra SS Series III A/T 1st Owner 882-3289

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

97 ISUZU Alum VAN P170T Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER CAR BRANDS

PAJERO SURF HI-TOWN ACE TROOPER SAFARI TERRANO DELICA PRADO MU VANETTE ESTIMA ESCUDO SUZUKI ELF CANTER BONGO PORTER A1 9126976•09178342020 GLEN

SPECIAL CARS

'64Pontiac Tempest 70T 9117657

BUSES/TRUCKS

3-Tanker-20KI-P550T each 044-6761742 / 044-6761812

BOATS

27FT CABNCRUSR VOLVODSL NEW P2M CP 0918-9169159

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

ABC CARS/VANS NEW MODEL ALL BRANDS SELFDRIVE OR WITH DRIVER MANILA 536-8822 • 303-9789 TIMOG Q.C. 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR VANS 410-0495

H'ACE MM/Prov. 7806509

HI-ACE L-300 9296250

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JF Rent A Van • 941-2546

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB100 Hiace Pregio 2973807

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272621

TOYCO-SELF DRIVE OR W/ DRIVER CAR/VAN 8006595

URVAN, MB CAR 937-02-71

VAN 4 RENT 8254058 8261045

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

COMPUTER

I-MAC COMPUTER ORANGE 160MB RAM 333MHZ w/prog 25K Call #896-2561

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

CONSTRUNCTION MATERIAL

Semi Automatic PLC Type H-Block Machine w/ Mixer & Sand Screen, Capacity 3 to 6T a Day 650T Cel 0917-8446869

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OTHER EQUIPMENT

VENDO Machine Hot & Cold P180T nego Call 426-2492

PETS

4MONTHS TOY FOX TERRIERS CALL 7253004

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★PUGS★WRINKLED 3725231

Husky Goldenret Rottwlr Ambul 4Sale 0920-4254118 Jetdog Kennel

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MISCELLANEOUS

Preschool Paraphernalia Desks, Chairs, Educ. Toys Play Ground Equipment See to Appreciate Call Malu 531-6446

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

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MOTORIZED MESSENGER must have own motorcyvle 824-5429 • 0919-3739027

FEMALE

Female Telemarketer Coll Grad Bright honest perfect English References reqd. Email resume suburbanmgt@hotmail.com

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp Start asap Direct Hire 4752637 MARIEL

★OFC Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ Start asap 7136116 ZOBEL

5 Bookkeepers •Acct. Grad. Female 21-25 Yrs Old. Single w/ or w/o Exp. w/Advantage those who have taken CPA review 2 Sales Executive College Grad. 22-28 Yrs Old. Male / Female w/ or w/o Exp. Fax your resume @ 715-1295

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FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

AUTOCADD OPTR. IN ARCHT'L/ELEC'L/ SANITARY/CIVIL & STRUCT'L. DESIGN MIN. 5 YRS. WORK EXP. (REL. 14/2001/2002) SEND P.O. BX 18 DASMARIÑAS VILL. CAMPANILLA ST. MKTI. M.M.

MALE/FEMALE

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ Start ASAP Call 9280996 Direct Hiring Lk Eugene

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 6304670 TRIX

★OFC/ADMIN STAF 18-45y/o★ w/ w/o Exp 9121480 Mr. Diaz

★ OFFICE CLERK ★ M/F 18-40y/o w/or w/o exp col lev/grad ANY COURSE Look for JADE 3735658

HRD PERSNL 09173660641 FATIMA

HRD STAFF 09160563641 MS. JK

HRDSTF BRAVO 01915968368

OFC JOB 09203844500 KIM

OFC PERSNL 09204114147 ALISON

OFC PERSONL 2781427 EROLYN

OFC STAF 09192535623 ANDREA

OFC STAF 09196541756 RAFFY

OFC STAFF / 0920-2376718 / JUDE

Ofc Staff 09164380041 Pauline

Ofc Staff 09198241338 Jude

OFC STAFF COLL GRAD /UGRAD 4370454 VINCENT

OFC STAFF/CLERK College Grad/Level 18-45yo Look 4 Ms Blanca@373-5658

OFC Staff/HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7279971 Mr. Bean

OFCSTF 09193632234 LOU

OFCSTF 5512388 MR. EVAN

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OFFICE PERSONNEL 09192535623 GLENDA

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Wanted Sales Executive below 30 yrs old. Computer literate Good PR CALL 815-2078 TESS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

BAZAAR EXPORT BANK TOWER formerly URBAN BANK GrdFlr Aircon Nov. 27,28,29 & Dec. 11,12,13 Call 7137030•7137231 • 0917-4916315 • 09173518509

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late JOSE V. TUBIG who died intestate was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc 302; Page 62; Book II; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Gregoria B. Borres Sr. of Quezon City. PDI-Nov 17, 24 & Dec 1, 2002

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ISIDORA CASUSI WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BETWEEN HER HEIRS PER DOC. NO. 452, PAGE NO. 91, BOOK NO. XIV, SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC CARLOS GAVIOLA OF QUEZON CITY (PDI-NOV. 10, 17 & 24, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FABIAN A. ANGKICO SR. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs for the sale of land covered by tax declaration Nos. 97-48621 and 97-48622. (PDI-Nov. 10, 17 and 24, 2002.)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MAKATI Supermart ALABANG

OPENING

BAGGERS/UTILITY PERSONS
- Male, 18-25 years old, single, personable, minimum height 5'6" at least High School graduate, living in vicinity of Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Laguna, Parañaque

CASHIERS
- Female, 18-25 years old, minimum height 5'2"
- College graduate, at least in Second Year level, good in arithmetic

PACKAGE CLERK
- Female, 18-25 years old, minimum height 5'2", at least High School graduate

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:
- Honest and trustworthy, NBI Clearance, ID photo.
- Good health and morals. Personable
- Bring accountability (Honorable Release and Clearance Certificate) clearance and release form from last employer.
- English speaking, disciplined. Willing to work long hours.
- Living in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Laguna preferred

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH YOUR BIO-DATA, SSS AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE AT OUR PERSONNEL OFFICE AT GATE NO 3 THRU RECEIVING GATE AT THE THEATER DRIVE

Contact Anna Quiñones/Tristan Baguisa
ALABANG SUPERMARKET CORP.
Theater Drive corner Commerce Ave Alabang Town Center
Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila
807 2209

SUPERMARKET

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18-35 y/o M/F w/ or w/o exp. Col. Grad./level any course Willing to be trained w/ PAY
Apply in person at Rm 4, 2nd flr. Muñoz Plaza Bldg. Cor. EDSA QC/ beside Chowking
Contact person: MS. ANDREA FLOREZ Or call 2774191 / 3735658 / 09202994047
Clip this AD in Resume/ Biodata

PRODUCT DESIGNERS WANTED!
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TRAVELLING MAY REQUIRED
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of SALUD N. ABEJO has been extra-judicially settled thru self-adjudication by her sole heir as per Doc. No. 285, Page No. 58 Book No. XIII Series of 2001 under Rodelio R. Punzalan of Quezon City, Notary Public. (PDI- Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the state of the late Felisa J. Lagdameo had been extra judicially settled among the heirs per Doc. No. 289 Page No. 58, Book V Series of 2002 before notary public Marcelino B. Jornales of Naga City

NOTICE OF LOSS

Pls. be informed that OR Nos. 250 (Customer/Treasury copy) of STERLING PAPER PRODUCTS ENT., was lost. Any transactions under this no. shall not be honored by the company.
THE MANAGEMENT
(PDI-November 17, 2002)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

AGUA STATION 4 SALE RUSH 425T NEG. 8108041 GINA FAX INFO IS AVAILABLE

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN N TRAVEL FROM HOME ARLENE 8531008 / 09178901851 www.earn-and-travel.com

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FOUR LOCATIONS IN OVER 250 LOTS INCLUDING: -

VIEW AT: Asian Terminals Inc, STMI Compound Bo. Lawa, Calamba, Laguna

LUBRICANT FILLING MACHINERY - CRANDALL PA410PTX 4 Spout Filling Machine; CRANDAL 2.25MTS 2 Spout Filling Machine; (2) CRANDALL Filling Machines; (2) BROOKS Flow Meters; Asstd. COOPER, GOULDS, VIKING Pumps; ALFA LAVAL Sharpless Decanter; (2) BROOKS BRI Rotor Meters; Liquid Control Flow Meters; Asstd. Stainless Steel Conveyors, etc.
FORKLIFTS - TCM FD100028 10T Cap. (1999); TCM FD4527 4.5T Cap. (1996); (2) CATERPILLAR DP25 25T Cap. (1997/8); TOYOTA 6FFD25-2Z 5m Mast (1997); TOYOTA 6F25-2Z 5T Cap. 3m Mast (1995); TCM FD2525 2.5T Cap. (1997)
LABORATORY - KOHLER Water Bath; MEMMERT Laboratory Ovens; PERKIN ELMER Dehumidifiers; Analytical Balances; Centrifuges; SETA Foam Test; HEZROG Viscosity Bath; Penetrometer HEZROG Flash Point Tester; METROHM Titrator; Infrared Spectrophotometer; Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, Moisture Meters, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - INGERSOLL RAND XF-125 Screw Type Compressor; INGERSOLL RAND Air Dryer, TRANE 40T Chiller Unit; Asstd. Petrol Pumps w/ Dispensers; Asstd. Bulktainers, Asstd Small Capacity Tanks;

VIEW AT: Punta Terminal, F. Manalo St., Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila
(3) 4000 Gal. Cap. Steel Storage Tank, 2000 Gal Cap. Steel Storage Tank; Steel Trestle; MITSUBISHI L-300 Aluminium Box Van; HONDA 250cc Motor Cycle; Asstd. Aluminium Ladders; Asstd. Office Furniture and Equipment, etc.

VIEW AT: Asian Terminal Inc. - ICD (Inland Clearance Depot) Paciano, Calamba, Laguna
(73) Bulktainers

VIEW AT: Alpha Distribution System Inc. Door Nos. 3 & 4 Menzi Compound, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City, Mactan, Cebu
TOYOTA 2.0/2.5T Cap. Forklifts (to 1993) Forklift Tyres; Eye Baths; Fire Extinguishers, etc

AUCTION DATE: THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2002 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: TUESDAY 19TH & WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2002 9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
AUCTION SITE: ASIAN TERMINALS INC. STMI COMPOUND BO. LAWA, CALAMBA, LAGUNA
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP30,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)

HENRY BUTCHER
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
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E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
Bids and Awards Committee

Bldg. No. 3 San Lazaro Cmpd. Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telefax No. 743-7236
Trunk line No. 7438301 Local 1338

INVITATION FOR BID

Loan No: 1396-PH(SF)
IFB No.: ICHSP-2002-006TE

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Health (DOH) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT (ICHSP), and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Telecommunications Equipment for the Province of Guimaras.
2. The Department of Health desires to procure the Goods described and itemized in the Bid Document through International Shopping in accordance with the applicable guidelines of the ADB, and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of ADB for the supply, delivery and installation of Telecommunications Equipment.

SCHEDULE OF BID ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 11 to December 6, 2002	
Pre-Bid Conference	November 25, 2002	1:00 PM
Deadline of Submission of Bids	December 9, 2002	1:00 PM
Opening of Bids	December 9, 2002	1:01 PM

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), POP II Warehouse Bldg., San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
4. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at this address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 5,000.00) or $250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be in cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held on the scheduled date at the ICHSP Conference Room. 4th Flr., PTS Bldg., Tayuman St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.
6. Bids must be delivered to the following address: CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE, Ground Floor, Bldg. No. 3, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila at or before 1:00 P.M., 9 December 2002, after which all bids will be immediately opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price in the currency of the bid or any freely convertible currency. Late bids shall be rejected.
7. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirm. ties therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to DOH and to local health units.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH
Assistant Secretary and
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI--Nov. 10 & 17, 2002)

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

The Venue of Davao City marks second year

THE VENUE, Davao City's best and biggest entertainment center, celebrates its second anniversary this month with a series of exciting shows.

The Venue sits on a 1,200-sqm property located at Davao City's entertainment district. Owner Buboy and Gene Bangayan used to run a number of tourist-related business in the region. However when they opened G-Bo bar at the family-owned Linmarr Suites, she realized it was possible to bring in popular artists from Manila for a special concert in Davao.

"G-Bo has a capacity of 100 people. And as we got more active into the entertainment business, we realize that we needed a bigger venue, especially if we want local and international performers to hold concerts in Davao," Buboy said.

Their idea sounded ambitious in the beginning, the place should be able to house as many as 1000 people, but food and drinks should be priced reasonably. Thus, The Venue came to be.

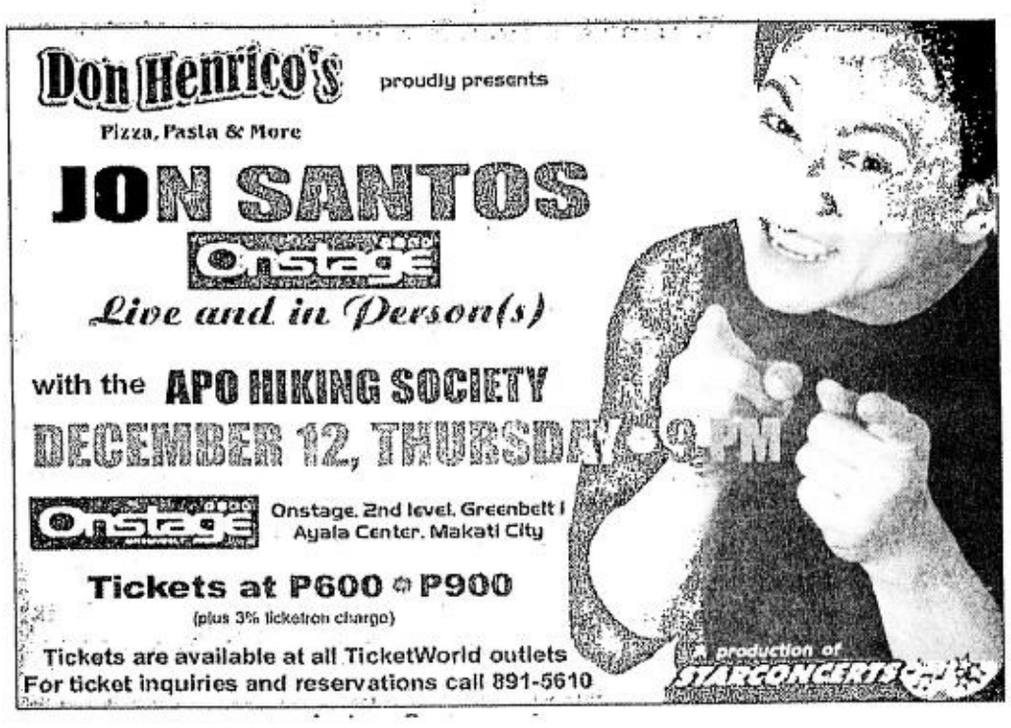
Just like any business, The Venue went through the usual birth pains.

"We had to convince the artists from Manila to perform in Davao," Gene said. "We had to assure them that it was a safe place. We also had to purchase the best sound and lighting systems."

To celebrate The Venue's first year anniversary, Library's top stand-up comedians Hans and Vice did a two-night show on Nov. 15 and 16.

Young comic divas Poca and Al will perform with sexy sultry Maui Taylor as guest on Nov. 29 and 30.

For inquiries, call 082-224-4150/222-9435.



"TWO THUMBS UP!" — Ebert & Rouper
"The performances take the movie to a higher level." — Desson Howe, WASHINGTON POST
AYALA CINEMAS
ArtFilm presents THE Coffee Club
Ben Affleck Matt Damon Chris Moore present
project greenlight's
STOLEN SUMMER
THE MOVIE

OPENS NOV. 20
Only at ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1
Stolen Summer by writer/director Pete Jones is the winner of the amateur filmmaking competition Project Greenlight. Kevin Pollak, Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy, and child actor Max Weinberg stars in the story about a Catholic boy and a Jewish boy. When the Jewish boy finds out he's dying, he works with his friend to figure out how he can make sure he gets into heaven.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

'Kailangan Kita' is easy to like

"KAILANGAN Kita" is a movie that's easy to like. It's better produced and more textured than many other local films, and its plot and themes have not been done to death by other productions.

The film is set in the Bicol region, where a Filipino chef working in the States (**Aga Muhlach**) has come back to the Philippines to wed his fiancee, a Filipino model with an international career.

Trouble is, the girl is held up by work prospects and other factors in Europe, so Aga has to supervise the preparations for their wedding by himself. It's a good thing that his future sister-in-law (**Claudine Barretto**) is also a great cook, so he has help.

In time, they get to be good friends. The trouble starts when they become more than that. They feel guilty, Claudine's parents

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

(**Johnny Delgado** and **Liza Lorena**) are shocked, and Aga has to leave. In time, of course, the movie's various problems are threshed out, and the film "deserves" its happy ending.

Aside from the main romantic plotline, the movie enriches the flavor of its "soup" of elements by including other themes like what it is to be a Filipino here and abroad, the value of activism now, Aga's belated coming to terms with his long-lost father, etc.

The "mix" format feels appropriate to this production because of its cooking motif. Thus, different elements can be tossed in and brought to a boil so that its various flavors intermingle in delicious ways, under the deft supervision of the movie's master culinary "chef," **Rory Quintos**.

The brew is further enlivened by the performances of Aga, Johnny and Liza, who come on both strongly and subtly, as the need arises. Claudine doesn't do badly, but the other leads' performances are simply more textured and felt than hers.

The film warms viewers' hearts with its combination of provincial customs and values contrasted with trendier tendencies borrowed from the west, plus heaping servings of romance, drama and humor.

After a while, however, we sense that the intended fusion of the movie's disparate elements isn't going to be fully achieved, despite the production's general likability and earnestness.

We wonder why so little background is supplied to clarify Aga's character. Why his fiancee is so flighty throughout the film. Why Claudine is treated like a kitchen slave by her own father. Why Aga's search for his father is introduced and handled in such a facile fashion. Why the NPA factor is brought up, and then forgotten.

We appreciate the production's interest in understanding the Filipino who decides to seek a better life abroad, but it's too nominally and sketchily rendered. Likewise, its contrasting mirror image, the Filipino who decides to stay home and fight, or suffer, or complain to death, or give up . . .

The theme of the family dominated by an autocratic patriarch is also limned too broadly to be truly insightful, despite Delgado and Lorena's compelling performances.

In the hands of a truly masterful "chef" of the cinema, all these disparate elements could have come together and impacted on each other. Here, however, the longed-for culinary-cinematic fusion isn't quite achieved, and stops short at friction, fission and occasionally trendy filmic fashion.

Which is not to say that Quintos has failed. Her process is quite eventful, and some of the points she makes are clear—it's just that the script wanted to cover too many bases, to be both entertaining and profound, romantic and geopolitical, cute and tragic . . .

This movie's soup is spoiled not by its having too many cooks, but too many disparate elements that cumulatively cry for more talent, resources, thought and time than have been expended on this production.

Still, we thank Quintos and her actors for sharing with us the shards of the collective Filipino experience within the delimiting contexts that this movie provides. As for putting those shards together to form a more instructive and unified whole, we'll just have to wait for another, more truly filling cinematic feast—soon, we hope!

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3 HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	SWEET HOME ALABAMA; HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	4 REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7,13-14, 20-21, 27-28	3 CHANGING LANES 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 2:10, 5:30, 8:50	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS; 7 KAILANGAN KITA		HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30	5 KAILANGAN KITA

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Magic Show, 3 pm
Trick or Treat for Kids, 1 - 4 pm
October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
Green Lounge Halloween Ball
Alabang
October 30, 1 - 4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30, 8 pm
Food & Entertainment Center, Halloween Parties
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Marissa birthday concert at Club

MARKETING and management company M.C. Archal Global Marketing and Management Inc., which is supporting the forthcoming 4th World Meeting of Families, has cast heavyweight singer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez in a special fund-raising concert, Nov. 23, 8:30 p.m. at Club Filipino in Greenhills.

"Not every performer is gifted with such a rare combination of music and humor," says director and line producer Dingdong Cabazor.

"Music . . . Laughter . . . and Mmmmm" will be held in time for Marissa's birthday. Expect musical fireworks as Marissa performs in production numbers with only the best singers as guests. Dulce and Marissa will do a duet of Barbra Streisand and Donna Summer hits. "Miss Saigon" star Robert Seña and Marissa will do "The Prayer." With Rannie Raymundo, Marissa will sing a medley of Manila Sound tunes from the '70s.

The show will have Jun Latorio as musical director. Cabazor's DDCAB Productions is line producer. It is presented by Pagcor, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Destiny Cable.

Tickets at P1,500 include buffet cocktails and souvenirs like the blessed commemorative family candles, stickers and button pins.

Also available are P500 tickets for the show only.

For inquiries, call M.C. Archal Global Marketing and Management at 811-6590 or 811-4571.

Marissa's other shows will be at Siete Pecados of Westin Philippine Plaza on Nov. 20 and one night at Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency on Nov. 28.

Bituin for City Lite

CITY Lite 88.37, Manila's first and only smooth jazz radio, celebrated its 15th anniversary this month, marking a decade and a half of stress-free, listener-friendly smooth jazz and rhythm and blues.

The station recently initiated a lineup of festivities to celebrate the occasion.

"Seven Nites of Jazz Around Town" featured live jazz performances in some of the hottest bars in the Metro. The celebration culminated in "Soul of Smooth Jazz," a concert which showcased the talents of Bituin Escalante at Hard Rock Café.

The event also marked the launch of yet another compilation of soul-soaked rhythms and rare grooves, the "Soul City CD."

Some of society's well-known personalities were present like jazz bird Lynn Sherman, actress Rachel Lobangco, Coca-Cola Tigers coach Chot Reyes, designer Carmina Pavia, Thai Airways country manager Chertchai Methanayanonda and restaurateur Thelina Nuval.

Busy entertaining the guests were City Lite 88.3's power ladies—station manager Pinky Aseron, special projects manager Annette Peñaranda, sales group head Susan Son Pascual, with the station's on-air staff and crew.

The anniversary event was also made possible by Hard Rock Cafe, Globe Quest DSL Broadband Internet, Generali Pilipinas, Emirates Airline, Subaru Forester, HSBC, Dove Cream Bar and Drysdale Fruit Juices.

'Black and White'

KELLY Grace Salcedo, the other half of the musical show, "Black and White," will sing at San Mig-El Pueblo every Friday this month. She will be accompanied by Rene, her regular pianist who is also a member of the group 4@Kelly.

Members of Kelly's group are Juru and Ice on vocals, Eric Narvaez as musical arranger, Mon Pestaño on drums and Rene Bacolod on keyboards.

Kelly also sings on Mondays at Sulo Hotel and has developed a regular crowd at Diwata Lounge.

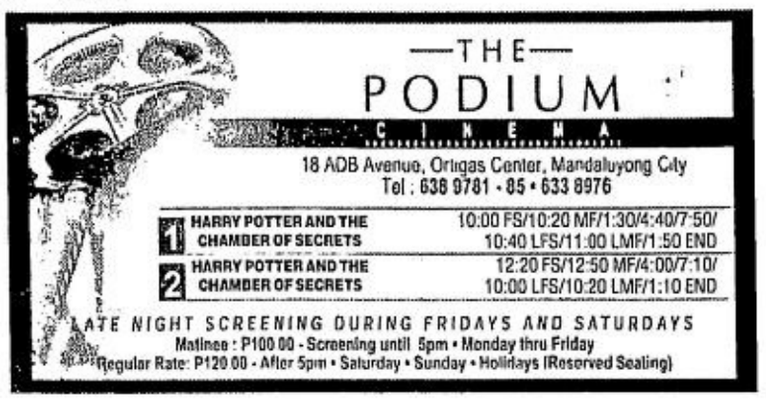
A certified R&B soul lover, she can belt out songs of the popular divas with ease and render them in her inimitable way. She can also sing standards and disco numbers.

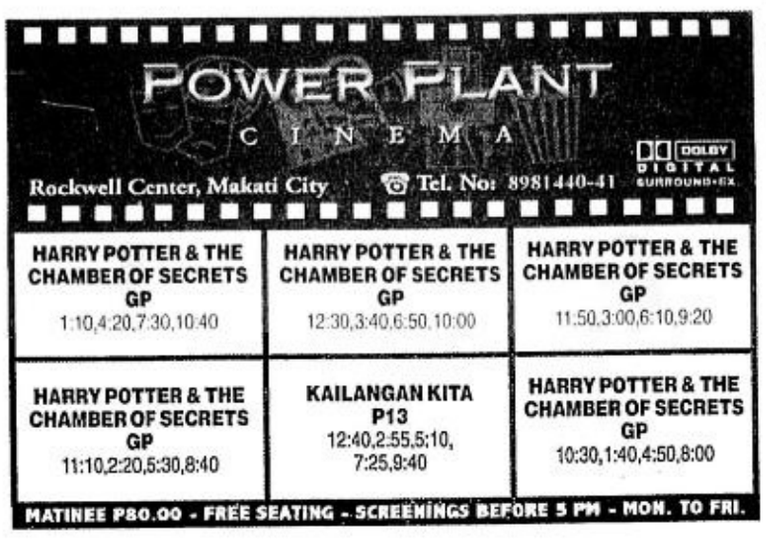
SHOWS

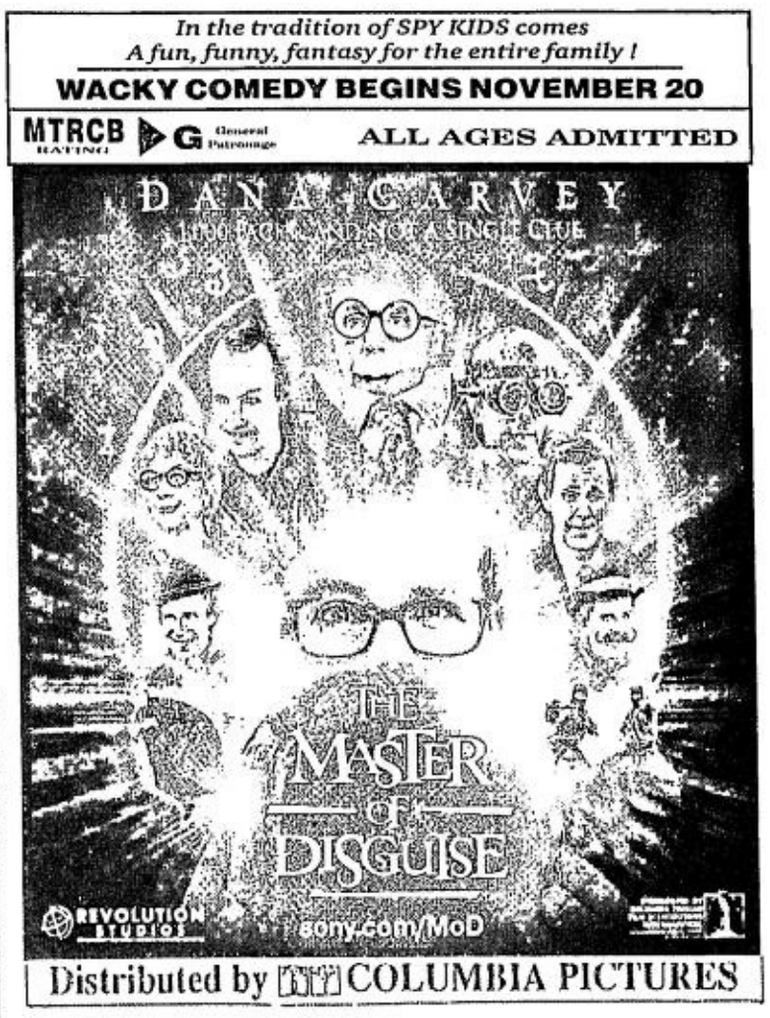
SANCHEZ

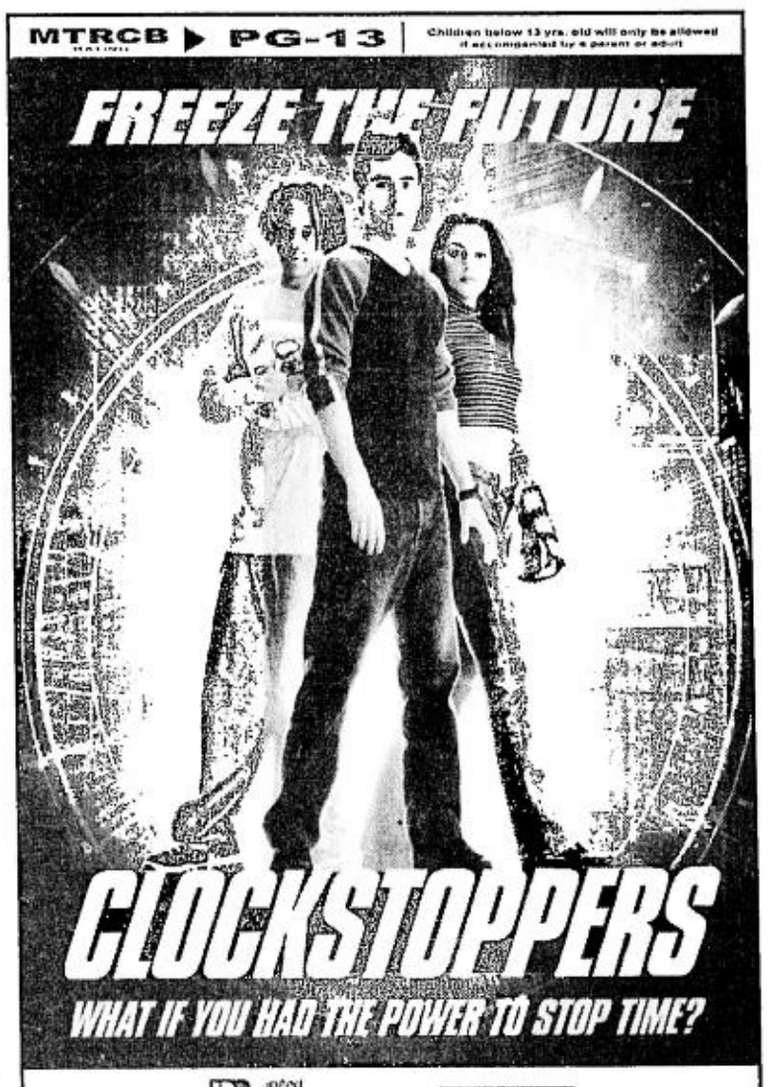
ESCALANTE

HENRY & CADIO
Henry Katindig on keyboards and singer Cadio Ferreria performs at the Focal Café on Connecticut Street in Greenhills every Thursday from 9:30 p.m. to midnight. They play standards, contemporary jazz and jazzed-up music from the '70s.









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People, Events & Products

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GET the best installment deals in the market today simply by using your Citibank credit card. Enjoy 0-percent interest on installment deals with over 650 participating stores in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu from now until Dec. 31.

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For further details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila or 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

ARTPETRON 2002 WINNERS FETED

In a grand culmination of ArtPetron 2002, Petron Corp.'s annual national student art competition, this year's winners were awarded during formal ceremonies held at the Cultural Hall of Petron MegaPlaza in Makati. The evening affair was graced by Petron officials led by chair and CEO Nicasio Alcantara and president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq, prolific artist Raul Isidro as keynote speaker, and Secretary Leticia Ramos-Shahani, Presidential Adviser for Culture and Arts of the Office of the President, as guest of honor. Based on the theme 'Lumang Galing, Bagong Sining,' the winning paintings, which bested nearly 400 entries from all 16 regions of the country, portrayed Filipino skills and crafts still practiced today in communities and provinces nationwide. Six grand prize winners each received P50,000 in cash and a digital camera for their respective schools, while each of the six runner ups took home P20,000 in cash and trophy.

THE FULLERTON PLACE BLESSING OF MODEL UNITS

Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte (left), guest of honor, cuts the ceremonial ribbon during the blessing rites of The Fullerton Place's model units. Belmonte was assisted by Robinsons Land Corp.'s (RLC) high rise buildings division's general manager Danilo E. Ignacio (right) and special guest Quezon City Councilor, 3rd District Jorge Banal (center). Located along Aurora Boulevard, between 15th and 20th Avenues, in Cubao, Quezon City, The Fullerton Place is RLC's latest residential condominium project. This four 25 story prime residential condominium is expected to be one of Quezon City's prestigious address.

Major 3-in-1 event ongoing at WTC

THE 12TH Philconstruct, back-to-back with Disenyo and Fire, Safety and Security 2002, opened on Nov. 14 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The trade fair runs until Sunday, Nov. 17.

This three-in-one event is a major milestone that brings together the world's best and the Philippines' finest in the construction, design, and safety and securities industries. Major manufacturers and suppliers, trade professionals, building administrators, land developers, engineers and architects, interior designers, and safety and security practitioners are among the participants and visitors expected to see the trade show.

The event showcases a myriad of products and services including architectural, interior decorating, and engineering products, building machinery and heavy equipment, professional services for building and construction, power tools and hardware, low-cost housing systems, IT-related products and services.

Raffles will be held on certain hours during the four-day affair. Major prize on the last day will be a modular house courtesy of Vazquez Building System (Vazbuilt), the Philippines' pioneer modular housing company.

From building and construction, to designing, to safety and security, everything is covered at the 12th Philconstruct, Disenyo 2002 and Fire, Safety, and Security 2002. Exhibits are open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today.

For further inquiries, call the Event Manager, Convex International at 726-6128 to 30, 726-8664 to 65 or or e-mail convex@mozcom.com.

PLANTERS BANK BALIKAT NG BAYAN AWARDEE

Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank), the largest private development bank in the country, received a Balikat ng Bayan Award as the Best Collecting Thrift Bank from the Social Security System (SSS). The Balikat ng Bayan Award is given to banks that are SSS employer-member of good standing, which have posted the highest collections and have shown siginificant number of SSS members. Receiving the award is Plantersbank executive vice president Fe Miranda T. Aruta. The award was presented by (from left to right) SSS president and chief executive officer Corazon S. de la Paz, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho, and SSS Chair Bernardino Abes.

RETRIEVING SSS MEMBER INFO THE SMART WAY

Long lines at the counters of the Social Security System (SSS) will soon be history with leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc.'s (Smart) latest innovation, the SSS Info Text Service. The service initially enables members with Smart and Talk N' Text cellular phones to access their records of contribution and loan transactions via a short number 288. Other relevant SSS information and services will be available as Smart, SSS, and application developer WolfPac Communications Inc. continue to integrate systems and resources. The Smart-SSS tie up was launched during the 45th anniversary celebration of the state pension fund. Shown is WolfPac managing director Myla C. Villanueva (right) demonstrating the Info Text Service to (from left) SSS senior vice president Miguel E. Roca, Jr., SSS president Corazon S. de la Paz and guest of honor Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho with Smart president and chief executive officer Napoleon L. Nazareno (second from right) looking on.

BITS & Clips

La Salle Alumni night

BRO. ROLANDO Dizon, FSC, inducts officers of the University of St. La Salle Bacolod Alumni Association (USLSAA) Manila Chapter on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Dencio's Par 43 in Fort Bonifacio Global City. Bro. Rolly is the president of De La Salle University System. To be inducted are president Teddy Villanueva, VP-High School Albert Gamboa, VP-College Wilma Miranda, corporate secretary Glenn Gatuslao, treasurer Bob Medalla, and directors Loretta Gustilo-Alcid, Nene Escalona, April Javelona, and Joel Torre. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, Chief of the Philippine National Police NCR. After this, the Manila Chapter will have its Christmas party in celebration of the Golden Jubilee Year of La Salle Bacolod. Call the Manila Chapter secretariat at 830-7604 or 0916-3503481.

Lifestyle Bazaar ongoing

HEAVEN Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar, is back. It is now ongoing Nov. 16 and 17, 23 and 24 at the Manila Polo Club. Heaven Sent celebrates its 10th anniversary. It's all about shopping as the Heaven Sent Lifestyle Bazaar Team unveils the season's best finds and buys from over 100 booths, and features 30 all-new first time bazaaristas. Lots of freebies, prizes and surprises are in store. Plus, a special Heaven Sent Food Festival will be presented by gourmet chefs of San Miguel Pure Foods, and features holiday dishes as demonstrated by Sandy Daza and chef Cathy Pineda of the Polo Club's Willow Root. The bazaar is supported by The Lifestyle Network, Image One, Sky Cable, Home Cable, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, ABS-CBN Publishing, Monster Radio RX 93, and Joey 92.3. For more information, call 812-9405.

Personality packaging for success

MANAGEMENT training consultant Joscephine Gomez, assisted by make-up experts from Caring Colors, will conduct a seminar-workshop on men's and women's dressing, skin and hair care, make-up and anti-aging tips on Nov. 17, 24 and 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. To be discussed are colors, fabric, cuts and styles that suit different professions and enhance various personality and figure types for corporate, cocktail and formal dressing. Participants will be evaluated individually and prescribed the right skin care products and colors for dressing and make up. Participants receive free skin cleansing and makeover. The seminar is presented by The Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training Company. For details, call 687-7898, or e-mail corpmind@edsamail.com.ph.

Bedan homecoming concert

JOHN Travolta, Stylistics, Donna Summer, John Lennon, Sampaguita, VST and Co., Bee Gees and the Earth, Wind and Fire—these names were synonymous to the vibrant and colorful 60s and 70s. They were legendary. Their fans legion. Expect an exhilarating evening down memory lane as the San Beda College High School 78 Foundation pays tribute to these musical icons with the Q&A Band, Leah Navarro, Renz Verano, the San Beda College Chorale and the Hitmen and the Kendeng Girls in a concert titled "Countdown to 2003" (A pre-homecoming Bedan Musical Special) on Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m. at the SBC Campus, Mendiola, Manila. This event is sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc., Pagcor, Aboitiz Shipping, ABS Bitter Herbs, San Miguel Corp., Equitable-PCI Bank, Pringles, Pantene Conditioner, Caltex Philippines, Dole Philippines, United Laboratories, Centennial Bank, BUM Equipment, Globe Telecoms, Shakey's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Mister Donut, HPPI, Phelps Dodge, Ayala Land, Midtown Hotel, and Hunts. Tickets are available at the SBC Alumni Office. For details, call 735-5995 and look for professor Joffre Alajar or Wilma, or lawyer Banjo Navarro at 633-4157 to 59.

POVEDA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OPENS BAZAAR

Pasko sa Poveda, the pre-Christmas Bazaar of the Alumnae Association of Poveda, is set on Nov. 23 at the Poveda Learnning Center grounds from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Bazaar chair and AAP president Virma Vergel de Dios and the bazaar committee members Lita Gelano, Vicky Reyes, Patty Loanzon, Frannie Jacinto, Chatty Bondoc, Tina Baretto, Bernadette Abejo, Grace Mercado, Gina Victoriano, Cecille Villanueva, Erica Gancayco, advisors Chuci Pacia and Maruxa Pita have begun their search for special products to be sold at the bazaar. More than 10,000 tickets have been given to Poveda parents for this special affair. All interested vendors may call Emy at 635-0565 or Luz at 531-8381.

COAL OPERATORS SIGN PACT

Coal operators have committed to continue protecting the environment and supporting their host communities in a manifesto of commitment signed at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City Oct 9. The manifesto was presented to the Department of Energy and Department of Environment and Natural Resources and was sent to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Shown are Alberto Victor Fenix Jr. of Salcon Power Corp., Roland S. Quilala of National Power Corp., Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr., and Edgardo Bautista of Mirant Philippines.

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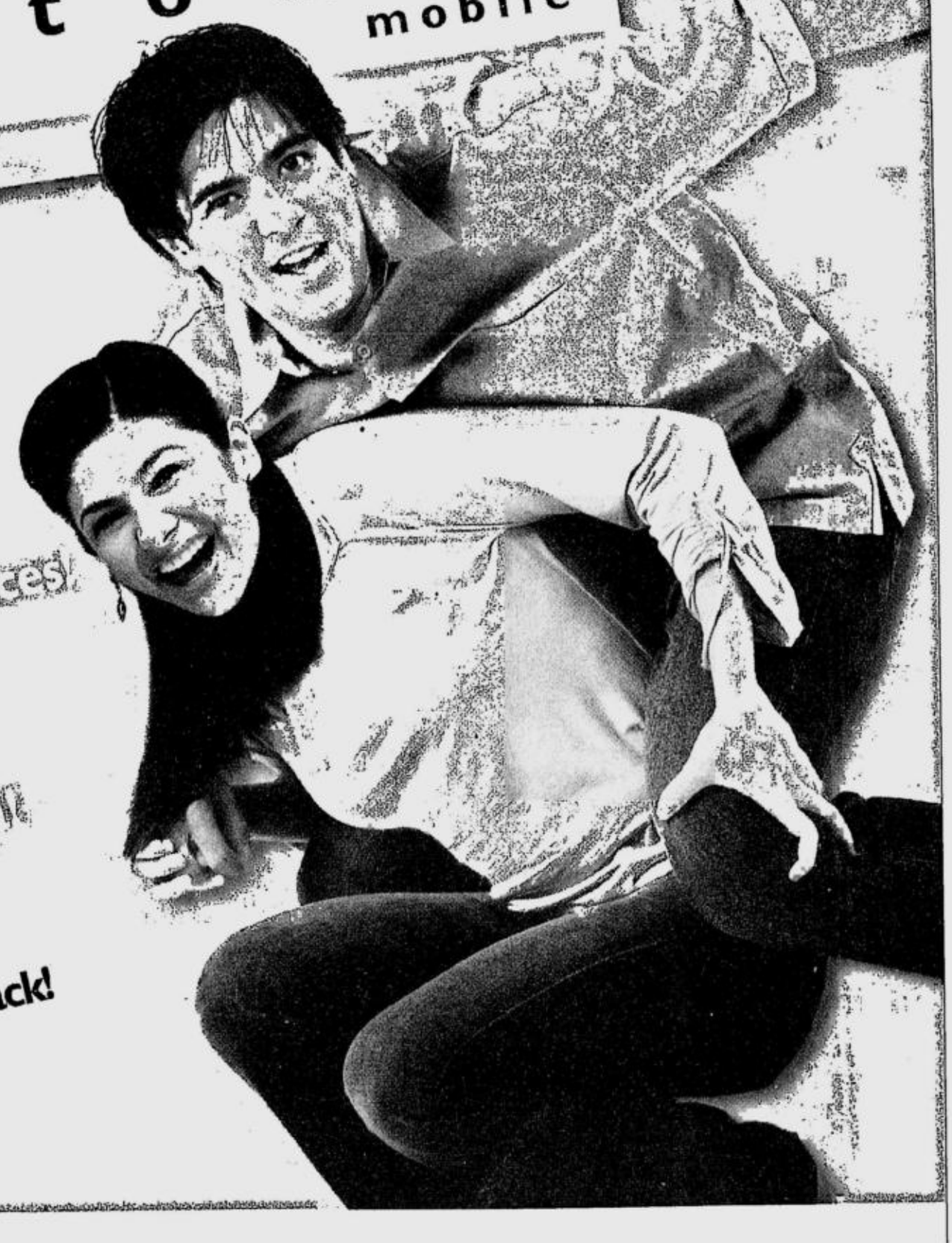

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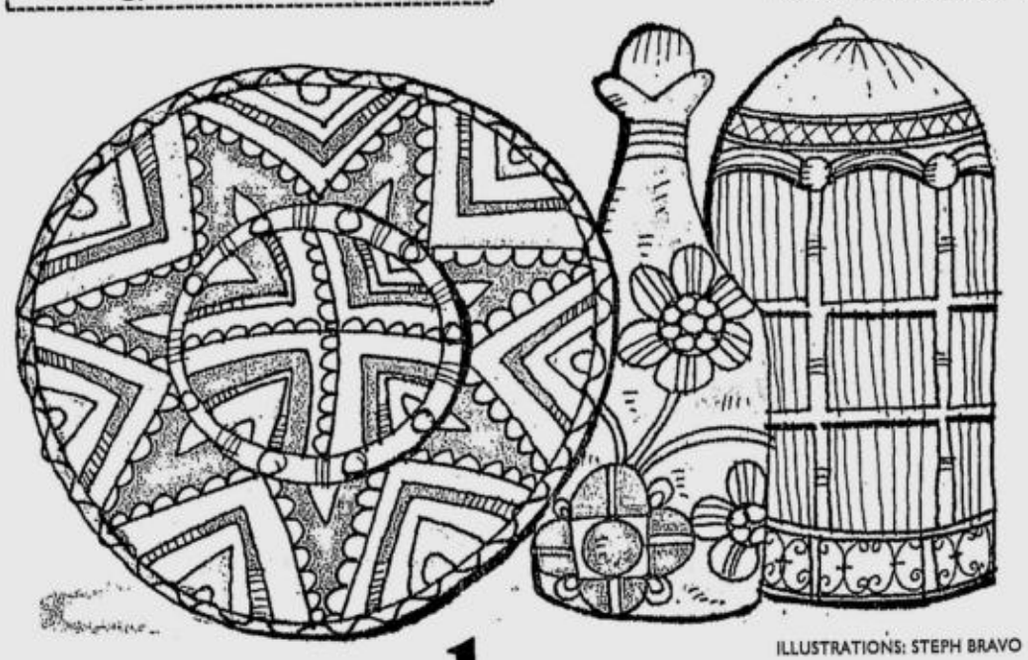
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

My days as a 'tindera'

Her wares were varied, quaint and groovy: nursery bags, amulets, native kites, mats, decorative rice cakes, and papier-mâché dolls

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

(First of three parts)

WHEN I was a young mother, I didn't think to be away from my babies for any length of time. So I decided that any small business I would undertake would have to be home-based. The owner of a gift shop close by showed me an imported nursery bag (for diapers and bottles) that was retailing at the atrocious price of P22. She challenged me to make my own version for P10. (It was 1962). Excitedly, I scouted around for imported leatherette *retazos*, sketched the bag's shape and figured out its decorations. The trouble was I could neither cut nor sew.

Now if there is anything that has always been operable in my life, it is serendipity—not for coming upon beautiful sunsets or treasure, but for finding people wanting to do the very same things that I want to do. On the vacant lot behind our house, I soon learned that there was a sewing woman.

Over the fence

Aling Anching lived among a small community of goat sellers who would bring goats from Pangasinan, tether them to a post and wait for people to order *caldereta* from them. Her husband was the caretaker of the vacant lot. Our house was not accessible to the people behind because a low adobe fence divided us. Aling Anching and I negotiated the matter over the fence. When she understood what I needed, I put a dining chair against the fence and the *yaya* hoisted me over to the other side.

I liked Aling Anching's squatter hut because it was very clean. We sat on the floor discussing the prospective diaper bag "business" to death. She was quite an engineer, and a prototype bag soon emerged from the drawings and pretty scraps of leatherette that I had supplied. I patched my clown decor proudly on it. Later, we expanded from simple square bags with a pocket, to really complicated structures with three zippers, separate compartments for wet and dry nappies, and rubber loops for feeding bottles. Plus elephant or princess or jack-in-the-box appliqué.

When the goat colony was evicted, Aling Anching had to go with it. By then, we were already a growing home industry. The sewing talent of Luisa, the substitute *yaya*, was surfacing—and she was even better! Aside from nursery bags, we were making clothes hampers for hanging, beach bags, school bags, lunch bags and kiddie handbags. Labeled "Apple of My Eye," the bags wholesaled to the existing classy stores in town—Aguinaldo's in Echague, Rustan's in San Marcelino, Everlast in Quezon Avenue, Matsuzakaya in Cubao, Mary Mike in Mandaluyong.

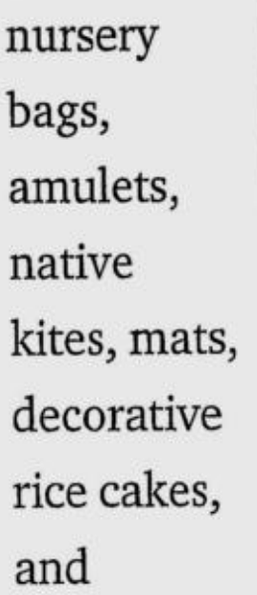
In the garage

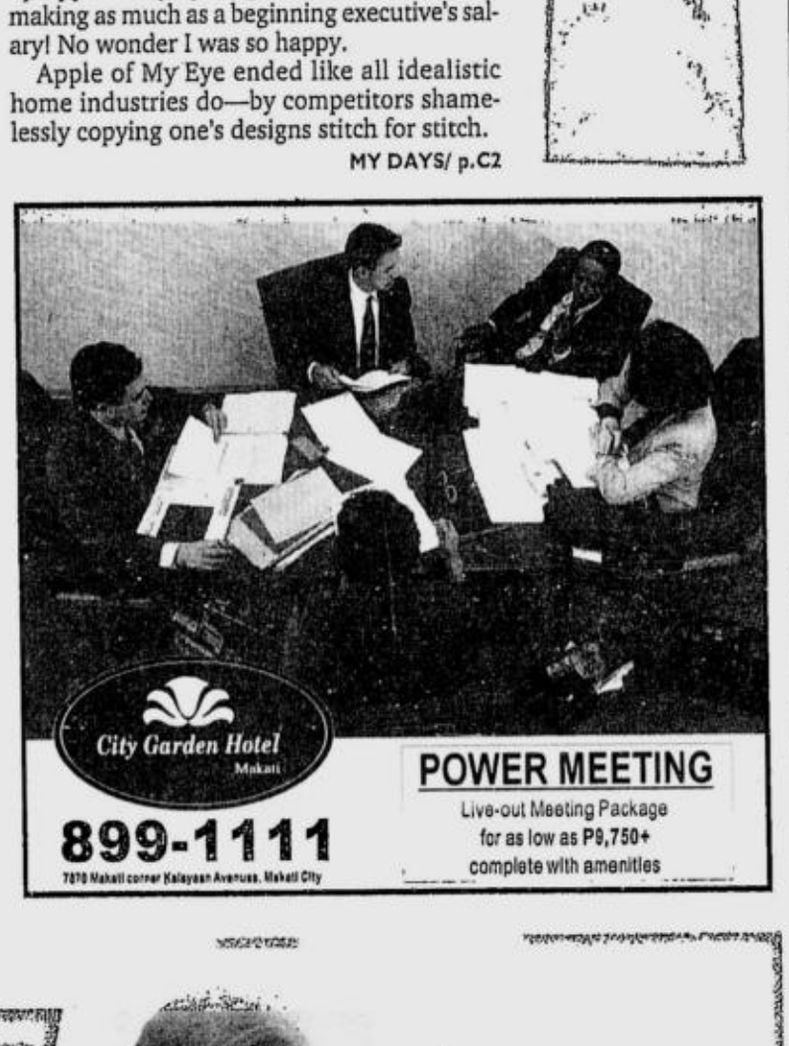
The sewing and cellophane wrapping crew soon increased to four. To earn bigger profits, I traced the leatherette to its source in Divisoria. I would never take a taxi home to save on overhead. Instead I rode a bus, lugging the two kilos of material I had purchased even if I were five months pregnant. Once, I remember my young lawyer husband making one of the deliveries—our Volkswagen so full of bags that he could barely see the road. From the porch, the successful bag operation moved to the carport with two new industrial sewing machines and a big red picnic table for cutting and designing. The kids biked in and out of the carport within screaming distance. It was a very happy time.

By 1973, the number of outlets for our bags had grown to 26. I never realized how much the garage business was earning until many years later when I worked with the Asian Institute of Management as a lowly corrector of papers. My young boss, Prof. (later Finance Minister) Roberto Ongpin, asked me to write up Apple of My Eye bags as a case study. I was making as much as a beginning executive's salary! No wonder I was so happy.

Apple of My Eye ended like all idealistic home industries do—by competitors shamelessly copying one's designs stitch for stitch.

MY DAYS/ p.C2





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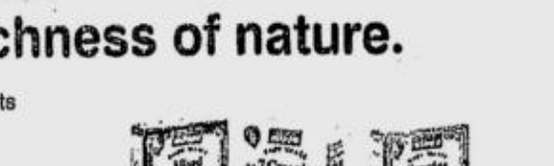

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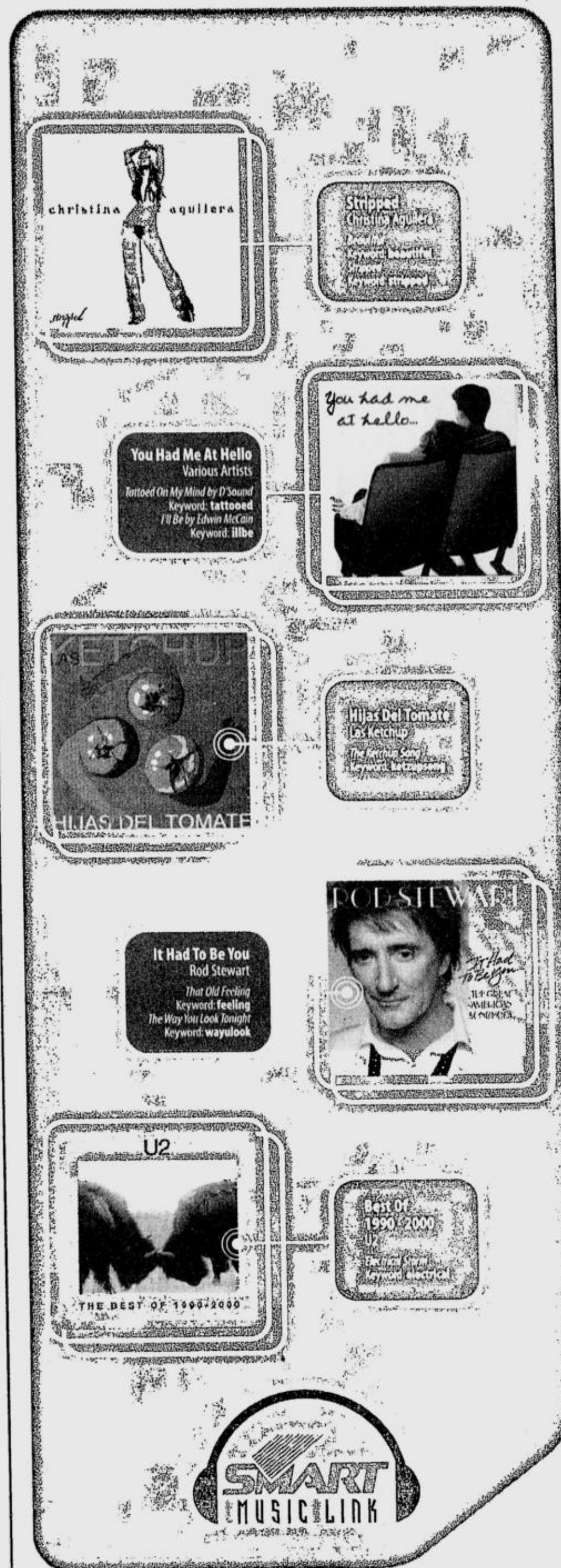

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2	**Room For Squares** John Mayer	9	**Chicago Story: Complete Greatest Hits** Chicago	18	**Elvis 30 #1 Hits** Elvis Presley
3	**You Had Me At Hello** Various Artists keyword: *tattoed* keyword: *illbe*	10	**Chillout Project** Various Artists	19	**Jazz Café Series: Latte** Various Artists
4	**Josh Groban** Josh Groban	11	**Come Away With Me** Norah Jones	20	**Forty Licks** Rolling Stones
5	**Best Of 1990-2000** U2 keyword: *electrical*	12	**Live Series** Various Artists	21	**A Walk To Remember -OST**
6	**Let Go** Avril Lavigne	13	**Nellyville** Nelly	22	**Hijas Del Tomate** Las Ketchup keyword: *ketzupsang*
7	**It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook** Rod Stewart keyword: *feeling* keyword: *wayulook*	14	**Chasing Time** Martin Nievera	23	**Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001** Lisa Ono
		15	**Jazz Café Series: Cappuccino** Various Artists	24	**Romance** Frank Sinatra
		16	**Simply The Best 60's** Various Artists	25	**Shine** Bond

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From page C1

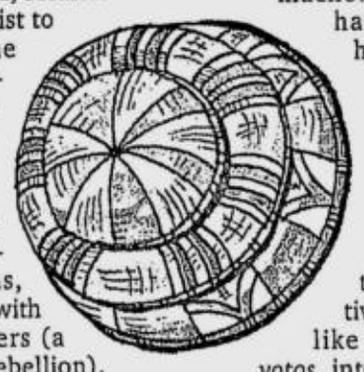
My days as a 'tindera'

Without experimentation costs, they could cut the price in half. But that took a good 12 years. By that time, my husband was no longer a struggling lawyer. He had begun to work for a big corporation. We furnished our house in earnest, upgraded our vehicle and hired a driver.

Folksy cubicle

By 1968, the kids were all in grade school, and I felt I could venture farther. Frankie and Tessie Jose (now National Artist and his wife) invited me to rent a cubicle in their Solidaridad Galleries on A. Mabini, for a little art corner. Then columnist Alfredo Roces had often defined the term "folk art" in his writings. I was fascinated with it. Nobody in the '60s knew much about folk art. It included just about everything the common folk made—from jeepney decorations to the way *kesong puti* was wrapped.

Since I am a sucker for anything educational, the concretization of Mr. Roces' examples (plus some!) became the theme of my shop. I filled the tiny corner room from ceiling to floor with Philippine folk art. This included wooden masks from Marinduque depicting bearded Moriones, soldiers who had put Christ to death. Since the carvings had originated in the Spanish times, the carved faces looked like *conquistadores* but with stunned, vapid expressions, helmets abloom with gay paper flowers (a subtle form of rebellion). There were papier mâché animals from Paete, usually red horses and roosters, although there was also a big carabao. Aling Teresa, their 160-lb. producer, sat on the carabao's broad back when she toted up the bill to show just how sturdy it was. Also on display were *pastillas* wrappers from Bulacan, with long tails and cutout words like "Recuerdo" and "Happy Birthday."



Amulets R Us

I first saw *anting-antings* (brass medal amulets) with pig Latin inscriptions when artist-writer Lorna Montilla introduced them to collectors who thought they came from a *katipunero's* chest. As I found out later from their source around Quiapo Church, they were for warding off bullets, lightning, evil spirits and hexes. A 2-cm brass Christ Child with an erect penis, if swallowed, was guaranteed to make the most retiring male a virile and irresistible macho. Later, my shop had *anting-anting* handkerchiefs full of inked inscriptions as well, which must have been authentic because they were so dirty.

For healing, there were red votive candles, shaped like the Mexican *ex-votos*, into an arm, a leg, a head, eyes, breasts or full male or female likenesses. Depending on which body part ached, one burned the corresponding candle at the Quiapo's church door. Since it was the first time many of my customers had paid attention to those red candles, they were properly awed.

A favorite item of mine were beautiful mats from Samar woven with "Recuerdo," or huge flower designs, or San Juanico bridge, or a map of the Philippines. Later, I also carried mats from Sulu. They had abstract designs since the Muslims are prohibited from portraying human figures in their art. The best were those I got from Zamboanga, with my cousin Dory, from a Badjao in a banca selling corals and mats to guests on the porch of Bayot Hotel.

Then there were the kites. Hanging from the ceiling—*guryon*, *tsapi-tsapi*, even a red-white-and-blue Filipino flag box kite, purchased from Larry Liggayu and his Japanese mom whom I spotted flying kites in Quezon Memorial Circle. Writer Monina Mercado and I also liked going to Lukban for its May harvest festival. The *kiping* decorations in most of the houses inevitably became the Solidaridad Folk Art shop's next attraction. *Kiping* are colorful rice *kropec* molded on cacao leaves that you can fry and eat. The *kiping* hung from a bamboo mobile until they curled up from the air-conditioning.

Single-minded

My pursuit of folk art was single-minded. Maybe I, too, needed to be familiar with Filipino popular art. I danced the *turumba* in the Pakil fiesta with Danny Dalena in *bakya*, and brought home their flat Virgin of Turumba unleavened cookies with cutout skirts. These I pasted on one wall, alarming the Joses who did not relish the prospect of *ipis*. In this "food section," my pride was a *sorbetes* cart with florid letterings that I had obtained from the bowels of Tondo. It was purchased by architect (later National Artist) Leandro Locsin for the coffee shop of the newly inaugurated Philippine Plaza Hotel on Roxas Boulevard.

My family drove with me to the San Fernando, Pampanga churchyard to watch the Christmas Eve lantern contest in the churchyard. We came back with a flower lantern, its revolving *papel de japon* face producing a kaleidoscope of colors. Barrios competed with one another, bringing in gigantic lanterns that had to be loaded on open-back army jeeps. Sometimes, 200 bulbs surrounded one huge *farol*. They blinked in time with band music while the judging was going on. Another time, in Pagsanjan, after a river picnic, I chanced upon a collection of Japanese Occupation *bakya* with their wedge heels carved into fruits and flowers. Tingting Cojuangco bought them all from my shop to use as unique brackets for her shelves.

Antiques

The moneymaking merchandise though was not folk art. It was antiques from Mindanao, with betel nut boxes, as the hands-down favorite. They were shaped like stylish turtles or frogs. Or brass rectangles, circles or hexagons that were inlaid with silver. And they had beaded straps and coin wheels. *Gukum*, containers for lip balm, were even more charming. Made of silver or carabao horn, they dangled from a strap of silver 10-centavo coins, tassels and beads. One unique piece was made of carabao horn, shaped like a beetle, with wings that pushed open.

The real power of an antique dealer is in being able to choose whom to sell one's prized wares to. Wise sellers knew how to psychologize their buyers and slide the price up or down depending on the individual's lust for the object. Stupid me, I preferred fixed prices and wrote them all clearly on every item.

Much of the antique brass and copperware selling in the shops of the '60s were collectors' items. I pity the young people today who have never seen them, and whose only acquaintance with Mindanao metalware are their shoddy reproductions. There were kitchen utensils such as soup ladles with flared cutwork handles, mother-of-pearl inlaid rice measures (*gantangan*), cookie moulds shaped like shells and flowers, coconut graters with crocodile and lizard bodies. My secret desire was to bring in a pony-sized *borac* (horse carving with outstretched wings and human face), that mythical creature who delivered Mohammed to heaven. But it wouldn't fit through the door.

Mostly foreigners bought Muslim antiques. Except for a precious few, Filipinos were not interested in collecting them. For Pinoys, the "in" thing was wooden *santos* and the Chinese pottery then being dug up in Gatid, Laguna. It was a status symbol in the '60s to have a few of them scattered around one's *sala*. I carried only a miniscule of these in stock, although friends and I often hunted for *santos* and jarlets in rural areas just for fun. Sometimes, I think I am allergic to profit.

Kitschy stuff

But Muslim antiques really didn't enthuse me as much as the weird stuff. Like machine gun shells (the local MNLF war in Jolo had started) welded together to make grisly crucifixes, jeeps and other children's toys. All for love of my shop, I even acquired kitschy stuff from Bilibid in Azcarraga (now Claro M. Recto). Prisoners due for parole were allowed to sell their wares in the yard on Sundays. I bought carved wooden *alimango* that opened up to become small mirrored dressers (cute!) My prized Bilibid buy was a *mah-jong* set made from hardened, sun-dried bread dough that the prisoners had saved from their rations. The balls, sticks and characters were incised with red and green ink. The tiles didn't clatter and were valued because the guards reported those who gambled. The inmate who sold it to me said the sets were very useful during hunger strikes. They could be softened in water and eaten!

Once, my husband's friend, under whose jurisdiction Muntinglupa was, invited us there for a picnic. The rotund prison chaplain was asked to tour us. Only our friend's wife and I were interested in exploring the prison. Who knows I could find new merchandise there! We walked on wet floors to the kitchen where big fires were being lit for cooking. It was sweltering. Whole sacks of rice were poured straight into the vats, unwashed, pebbles and tacks or whatever included. Burly guys, shiny with sweat and tattooed from head to foot, stirred up the rice with shovels. It was a scene straight out of Dante's hell.

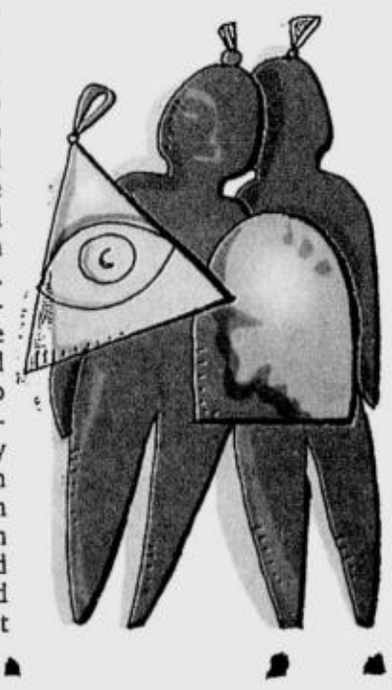
Then the chaplain brought us to Death Row (this I later found out from our irate friend who was prohibited). I didn't realize what I was going to see. All the convicts—murderers and rapists, were kept in a row of cells. The chaplain, who was deaf, announced loudly that we were passing through. The guards suddenly came to life and started hustling those dangerous tattooed characters, till then walking leisurely about, back into their cells. Once locked up, they couldn't put their heads out, so they stretched hands through the bars instead, holding little mirrors to see who was approaching. The mirrors glinted the light eerily on the walls.

Death Row shock

Many of the cells had gaudy, gut-wrenching murals. Some had curtains halfway down the bars (for privacy, I guess). The prisoners could see above it when they were standing. We could feel their crazed eyes following us as we walked past. Only later was I to learn that those hardened criminals had not seen a female in a long time, and that what they were doing behind the half-curtains was masturbating! Once outside, my knees turned to water. I didn't dare tell anyone in the picnic how that purchasing venture went.

Everybody came to my folk art shop. Each item in it was painstakingly labeled with a little story on its provenance, history and acquisition. hey read the labels and gaped and ooh-ed and aah-ed. They said they lo-o-ved coming to my shop and seeing all those interesting things. But they didn't buy much. After all, how many people want to own a noiseless *mah-jong* set that you could eat during a prison riot? What I had put up was not a store—it was a darned museum!

(More next Sunday)



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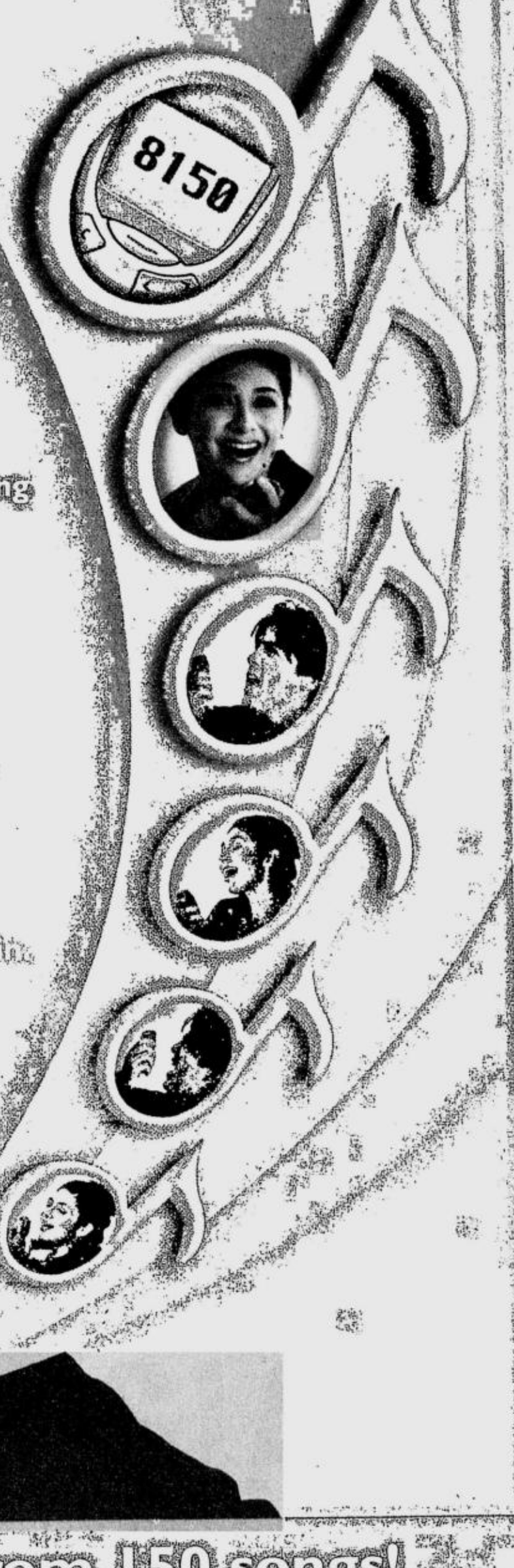

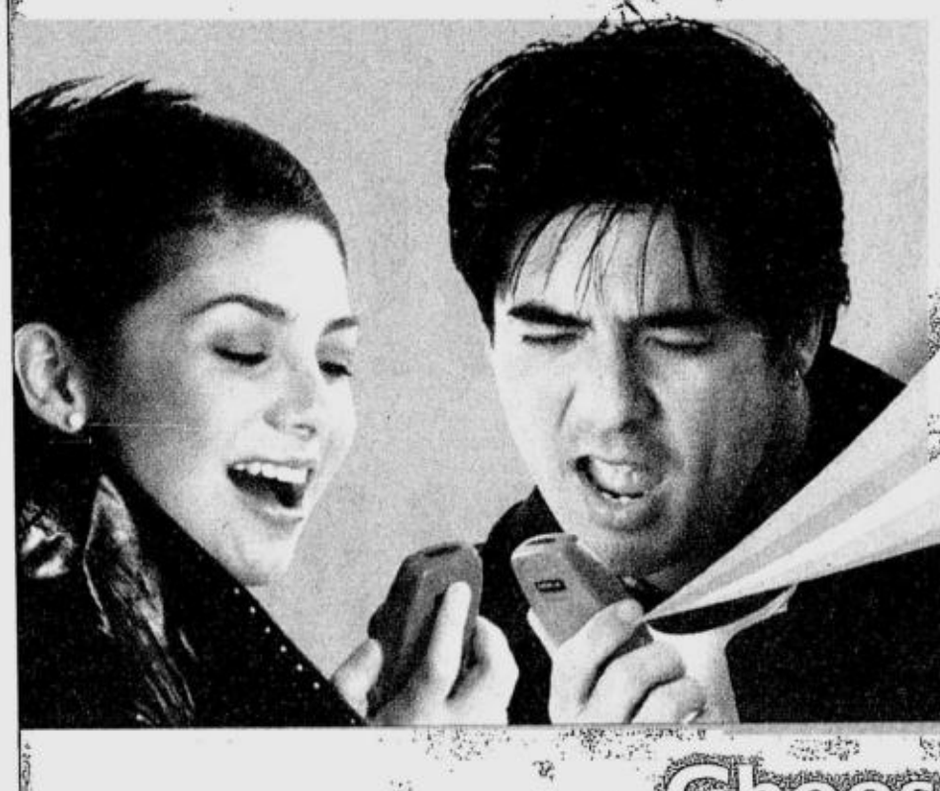

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To Love Again
by: Roy Basco
(code 0140)

At six o'clock in the night I'm alone
A always think for someone to hold
'Coz I feel my love is dying
And I need somebody saying
That there's a chance for me

Everytime I sleep in the night
I wish that she'll be here by my side
To show my deepest feeling and
embrace till in the morning
I don't want to wake up if it's a dream

What a beautiful world
If you find your self in love

Refrain:
What a beautiful world
If you find yourself in love
There's nothing to compare
With everything you've got
'Coz real love lives forever and ever
in your heart

You Are the One
by: Introvoys
(code 0148)

I feel so sad and lonely
Oh how I miss you so
Memories of you, I can't get off my mind
Ever since that day you left me

I can't forget those days
Our happy moments together
Do you remember when we first met?
I knew we belonged to each other

Refrain:
You are the one for me
The only one can't you see?
My heart I gave to you
Believe me what I say is true.

FAREWELL
by: Magic Touch
(code 0038)

Feeling lonely again tonight
Wondering if things would still be
alright
I'll be going away for quite sometime
While you have to stay

Life would be miracle
Without you by my side
Just think of our moments
And we'll both be fine

Chorus
Destiny has gotten us together
Wish we could have each other forever
I'll be leaving soon
but always remember
That we are meant for each other

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PHILIPPINE DA
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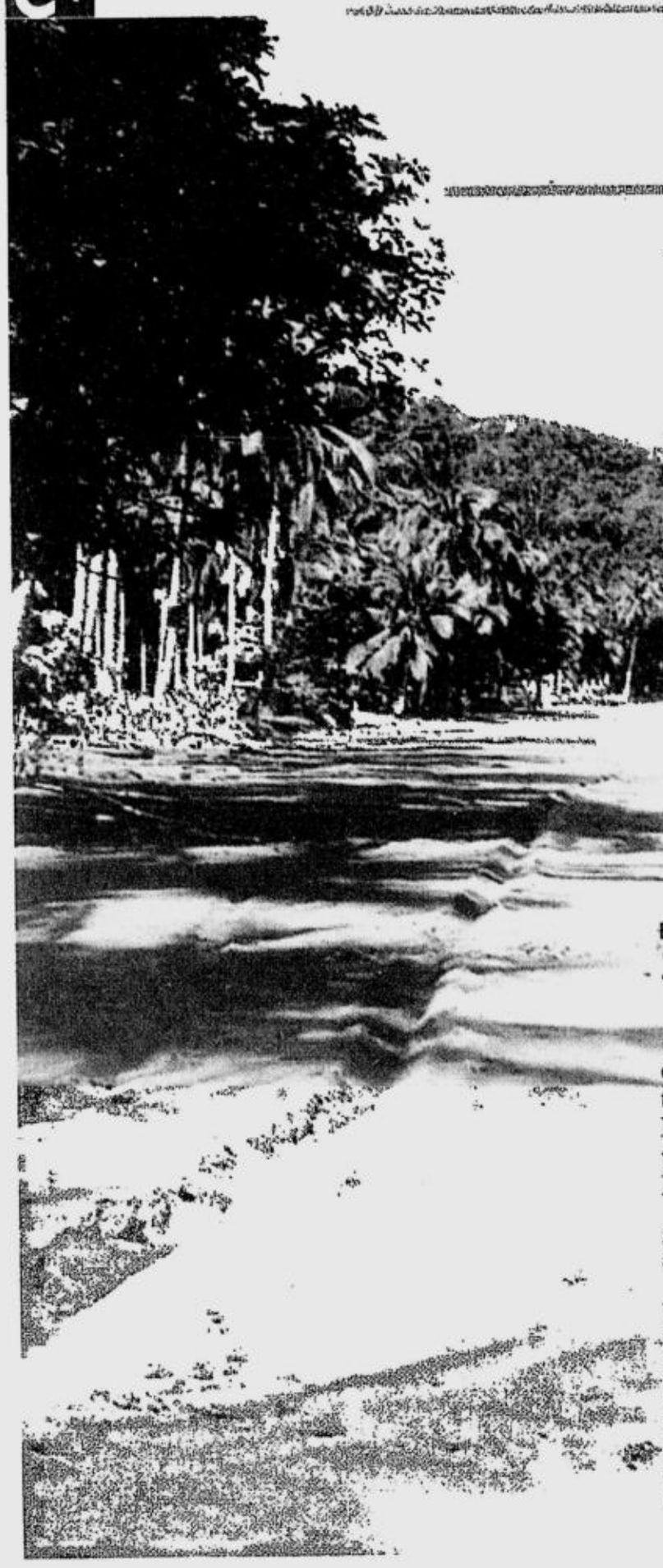
Where people s



By Blanche S. Rivera

PUERTO Princesa City is a place where people land and then take off again. Most travelers here are passersby, their sights trained on the farther, more exotic lands and seas of Palawan. Too often, the clean and quiet capital is left to its own sweet bliss.

As soon as the plane touches ground, a friendly Palaweno on vacation from Manila asks where it is I intend to go.

"The Olangaoan (pronounced as Olangwan) waterfall and Nagtabon beach, just in Puerto Princesa," I tell him. He looks thoughtful at first, and then says with an understanding smile: "But there's no Olangaoan waterfall here. You must be referring to Estrella waterfall."

I'm not. The Olangaoan waterfall is tucked in the heart of a thick virgin forest in Barangay San Vicente, an hour and a half's drive from the city. It is a well-kept secret whose geography is unlisted in the brochures from the City Tourism Office.

To get there, one hitches a ride in the six-wheel jeeps bound for the northern towns of Palawan, like Roxas. The six-wheelers, unique to Puerto Princesa, were designed to carry a huge load of passengers and cargo. If unlucky, one has to make do with a seat on the roof, taking consolation in a view of the mountains on the left and the sea on the right.

Olangaoan was being groomed as a protected site in Palawan a few years back, tour guide Marlon del Mundo tells us. But the plan was aborted because of neglect in community efforts, through which the government had intended to sustain the project. There had been public hearings on the matter, and the care of the waterfall was passed from one foundation to another. But even now, few locals and even fewer tourists know about Olangaoan.

From the main road, it normally takes an hour's trek through the forest to get to the waterfall (for us city slickers, it takes much, much longer). The winding trail is marked by broken bridges, ladders, rocks, and stinging wild plants, and occasionally interrupted by cold, knee-deep running water that one has to cross in order to follow the trail.

It's like exploring the Sumaging Cave and trekking to Kiltepan Point in Sagada at the same time; it leaves you no choice but to cling to an omniscient power—your tour guides or, in my case, an improvised bamboo cane.

"We offer this package to tourists, but as soon as we explain how to get to the falls, they back out," says Ging Talabucan, one of our tour guides from the Legend Hotel in Puerto Princesa.

"You're actually the first hotel guests that we brought here," she says with a naughty smile as the lush greenery opens to yet another stream.

At this point, sun-scorched and pricked by thorny bushes, I am not sure whether to be flattered or offended. Why am I seeking the road less traveled again?

When we emerge from the forest three hours later, I have more faith in God and less complaints about life in general. And I have accept-

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AVEL

A. Garcellano

top over

ed the fact that sometimes, there is just no shortcut to where I'm going (though there sure was a beach somewhere around the corner).

Nagtabon beach in Barangay Bacungan on the west coast of the mainland is a saving grace. Except for a few houses and two rustic resorts, the 800-meter stretch of peach-colored sand is a refuge for those weary of the fanfare in the more popular destinations.

Nagtabon is unnoticed and undeveloped, but its waters can easily hold their own against the famed Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte. Palawenos say it also hosts a beautiful sunset.

If one does not wish to queue for a shower in the resort, the households in Nagtabon offer their restrooms, some for a fee, others just for a story over buko (now, that you have to buy for P10 each).

The house that 65-year-old Aling Rosalia shares with her husband has only the barest necessities—two beds, a table, a sink, and a transistor radio cum flashlight—but yes, it has an improvised shower. She does not charge us, and earlier, she roused her husband from sleep to serve us coconut straight from the tree.

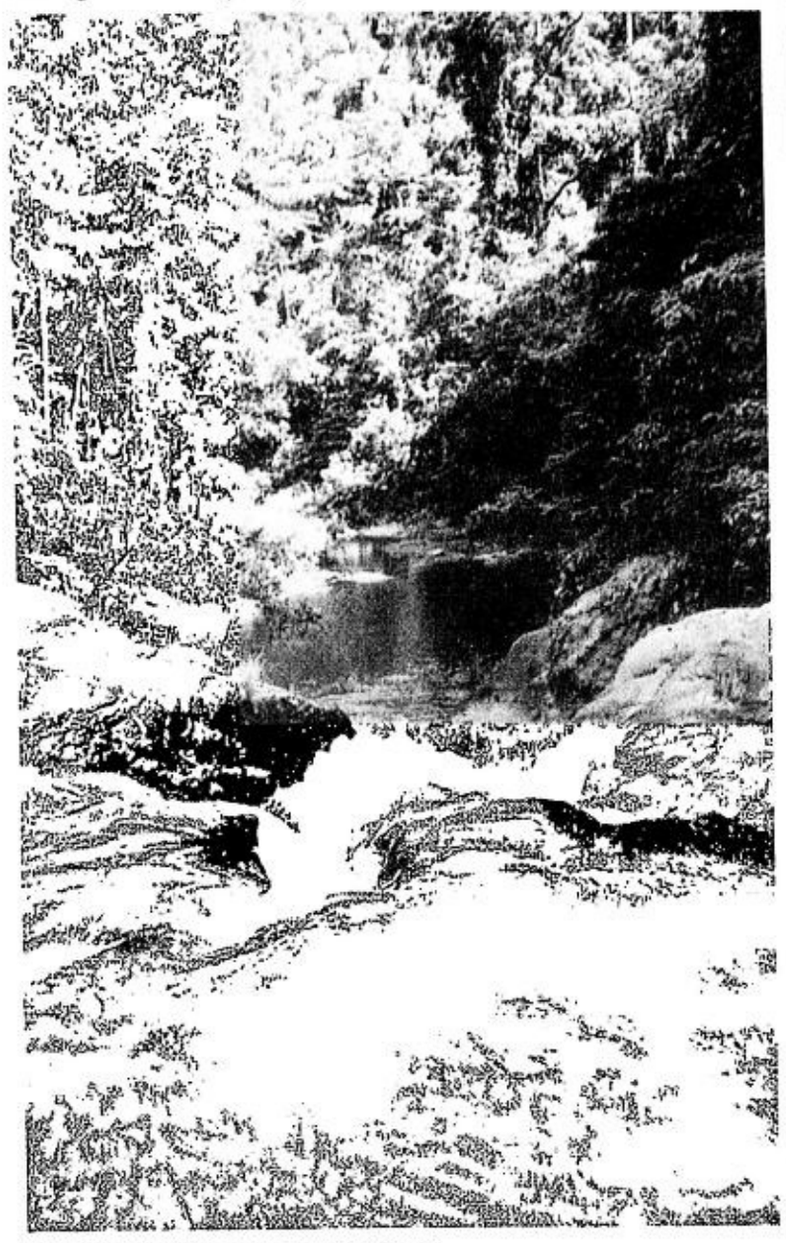
Palawan of 1,780 islands and islets has been trying to revive its tourism industry since the Abu Sayyaf attack on the Dos Palmas resort two years ago. (But the resort has since recovered, and clients have returned.) Legend Hotel is offering a 3-day, 2-night tour package for P8,000 including accommodations and airfare. It also has dormitory-type rooms for backpackers that cost as low as P300 per night (for information, call its Manila office at 6389256-58 or Puerto Princesa at 048-4349276).

"Some say you haven't been to Palawan if you haven't gone to the underground river (now named Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park)," Ging says. But the river was not in our itinerary because of time constraints.

It would have been another interesting sight, that river. But as I sit on the sands of Nagtabon and feel the water washing away the dust and grime and grumbling I brought from Manila, I am convinced that I am experiencing Palawan.

And I am glad I stayed where some people only stopped over.

UNDISCOVERED Nagtabon Beach; exquisite weaving at the Rurungan sa Tubod (above)



OLANGAOAN snaking into the forest

Ilocos Sur claims pride of place

By Marlet D. Salazar

ILOCOS Sur has plenty to offer in terms of tourism spots, the most famous being the Vigan Heritage Village that was included in the Unesco's World Heritage List three years ago.

In an effort to boost their rich heritage as well as the local economy, Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano recently led the Ilocos Sur Tourism Industry Conference at the CAP Building in Vigan City.

The participants included members of the local tourism board, nongovernment organizations and local government units, businessmen and other sectoral representatives. The conference was aimed at perking up domestic tourism in the country.

Savellano envisions Ilocos Sur as a "wholesome, safe, and secure vacation spot for families and foreign tourists." He also intends "to increase awareness among local residents on the culture of tourism."

Among the many projects that the governor hopes to accomplish is the development of market niches in coastal, heritage and pilgrimage tourism.

The province has eight churches and each is known for intricate architectural design. And visitors wanting to enrich their appreciation of history may visit, not just one, but four museums.

To push not only its tourism industry but also local events and products, Ilocos Sur celebrates the Viva Vigan Arts Festival, the Sinait Garlic Festival, and the *abel*, tobacco, furniture and food festivals.

Abel is the native fabric used as bed or table covers and, of late, dresses. For its cultural value, *abel* remains a special handicraft that is identified with the people of Ilocos.

Burnay (or jar) is also a major product of the province. The jar is made from ordinary soil and sand, but the design is what makes it stand out from similar products in other provinces.

Sometimes, a place is known by its food. And Ilocos Sur is not lacking in this aspect. Aside from the *tinubong* (sticky rice cooked in bamboo shoots), there are the Vigan *longganisa*, the *empanada* (which is different from the *empanada* we know in Manila, but tastier), and, of course, the matchless *sukang Iloko*.

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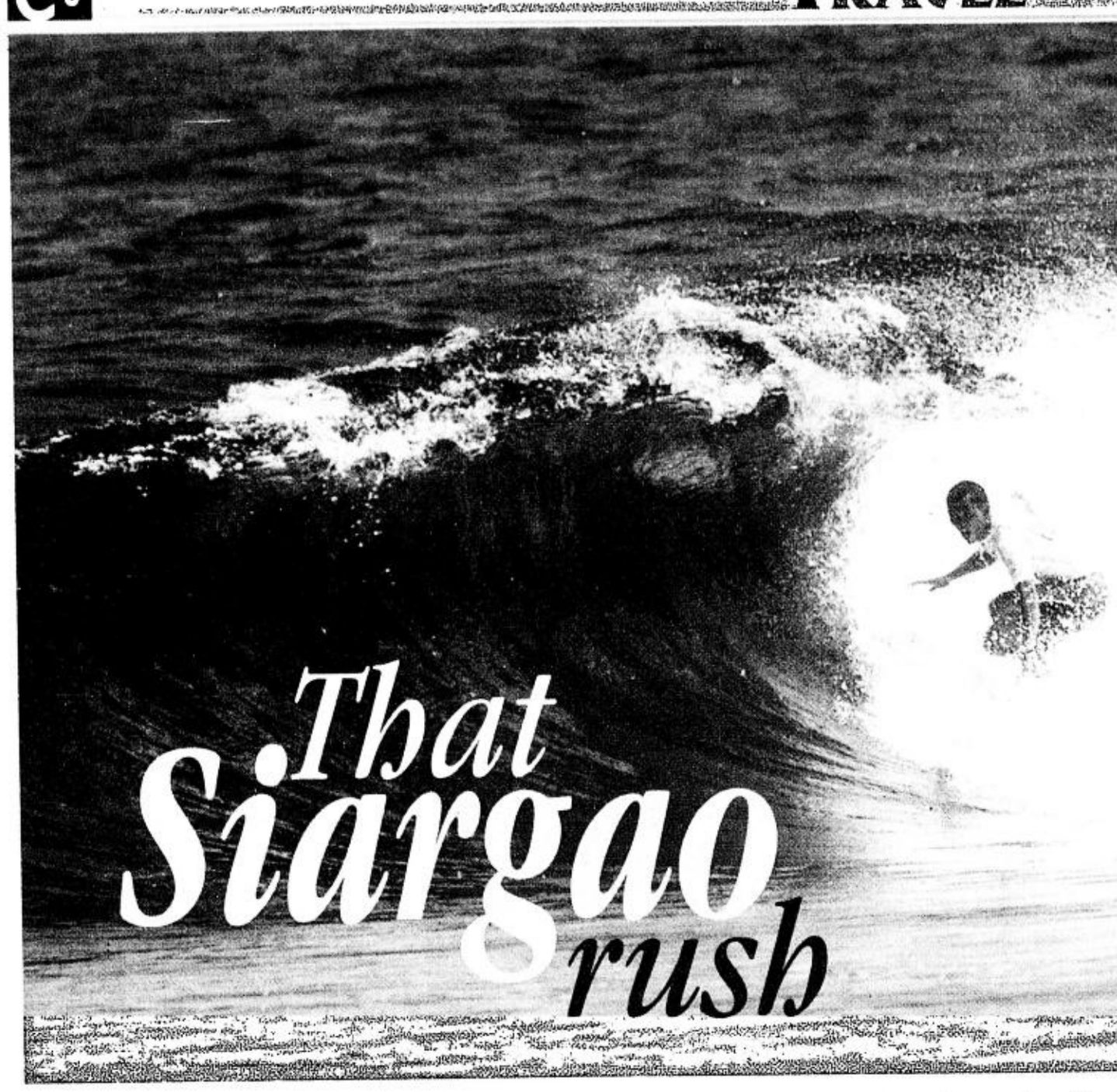


That Siargao rush

Cloud Nine is a world-class barreling wave, with a faster takeoff than even Hawaii's famous Pipeline

PHOTOS BY PAT MATEO

By Roel Tan-Torres
Contributor

THE BIGGEST surfing event in the country is the annual international competition held every September in Siargao, Surigao del Norte, and even President Macapagal-Arroyo traveled to the island to attend the event.

She wisely decided to try surfing the piddling waves in front of Cloud Nine, where most of the ocean's power would by then have dissipated, rather than at the reef break itself. Cloud Nine is a world-class barreling wave, with a faster takeoff than even Hawaii's famed Pipeline. In just a few days it had broken about 20 boards, and a surfer had scraped his hip on the shallow coral bottom, requiring 10 stitches. The local surfers had a dire warning: If GMA surfed the actual wave, *baka matanggal ang nunal* (her mole might come off).

So the Presidential Security Group was understandably concerned when First Gentleman Mike Arroyo paddled out on his long board to try the real deal. He'd surfed before, but on the much tamer waves of Pangasinan about 35 years ago. Also, he neglected to notice that all the surfers were on short boards—standard equipment for steeply breaking reef breaks. Long boards (with lengths 2-3 feet longer) are better suited for gentle beach breaks.

The President's husband saw the water behind him heave, and paddled for a ride. The wave pushed his board into the edge of the breaking wave—and promptly buried him in masses of white water. After a few seconds his long board popped up, but there was no sign of him. The PSG, bobbing about in black shorts and shirts, started yelling at one another: "*Nasaan na siya? Nasaan na* (Where is he? Where)!!!"

A few Siargao riders had been assigned to assist them. Scanning the frothing ocean for the leash that tethered the First Gentleman's leg to the board, one said nonchalantly: "*Lulutang din yan* (He'll come up in time)."

And he did, gasping for breath but otherwise unharmed.

Surf spots are funny places. The best waves break on exposed beaches that jut out onto powerful oceans. Remote and impoverished, these spots would have remained obscure were it not for surfers looking for uncrowded waves. Barrio folk whose main concern is having enough to eat suddenly come face to face with a white guy whose obsession is to ride a wave. More often than not the clash results in a wipe-out—a frothing tumble where mores and life itself are upended.

For the kids in Siargao it starts early. Every morning a scrawny 8-year-old, hair dyed blond, would hang out by my cottage and offer to get me a coconut. The kid would climb a tree (in the resort itself) and split the coconut open (with a machete borrowed from the kitchen). I would pay him P10, although last year it was just half that amount. You'd think he would then run off to give mom his cash. Nope, he uses it to rent a skateboard and thrash about in a skate pool built by a foreign surfer. A friend of mine gives the kid some stickers and next day the kid's trying to sell them to me.

At the recent international cup Travis Pyle of Australia shared 5th place with Siargao's top rider Fernando Alipayo, whom he started mentoring in 1996 when Alipayo was still a kid. Pyle was the winner that same year. In return, Alipayo taught him Bisaya.

Alipayo seems to have benefited more from the exchange: His surfing is topnotch while Pyle's Bisaya is barely serviceable and still sounds silly with his Aussie twang. But Pyle has been able to use it well enough to snag a Siargao woman for a wife.

And he is probably one of Siargao's best imports. He truly loves the island life. When he goes out to surf villagers call to him and he gladly stops to banter in his stilted Bisaya. He smiles even more than the locals do. He has a year-old daughter, and the family watches him surf Cloud Nine from the judges' tower fronting the break.

However, Pyle's benign presence seems the exception in the enduring connotations of surfing *vis à vis* alcohol, drugs and sex. The hedonistic existence persists and the requirements are neatly summed up in a Rip Curl sticker extolling "The Search." Originally, the two words stood for the quest for the perfect, uncrowded wave. But in an updated version, the sticker cheekily portrays stick figures in traffic-sign style: the usual curl of a wave, van for the road trip, skateboard ollie over picnic table, bottle marked x, barfing figure hunched over toilet bowl, tent with figures in silhouette going at it doggie style.

"It's all there, eh?" a surfer says bemusedly as I peer at the sticker plastered on a *habal-habal* (the Siargao motorbike that seats up to five or more).

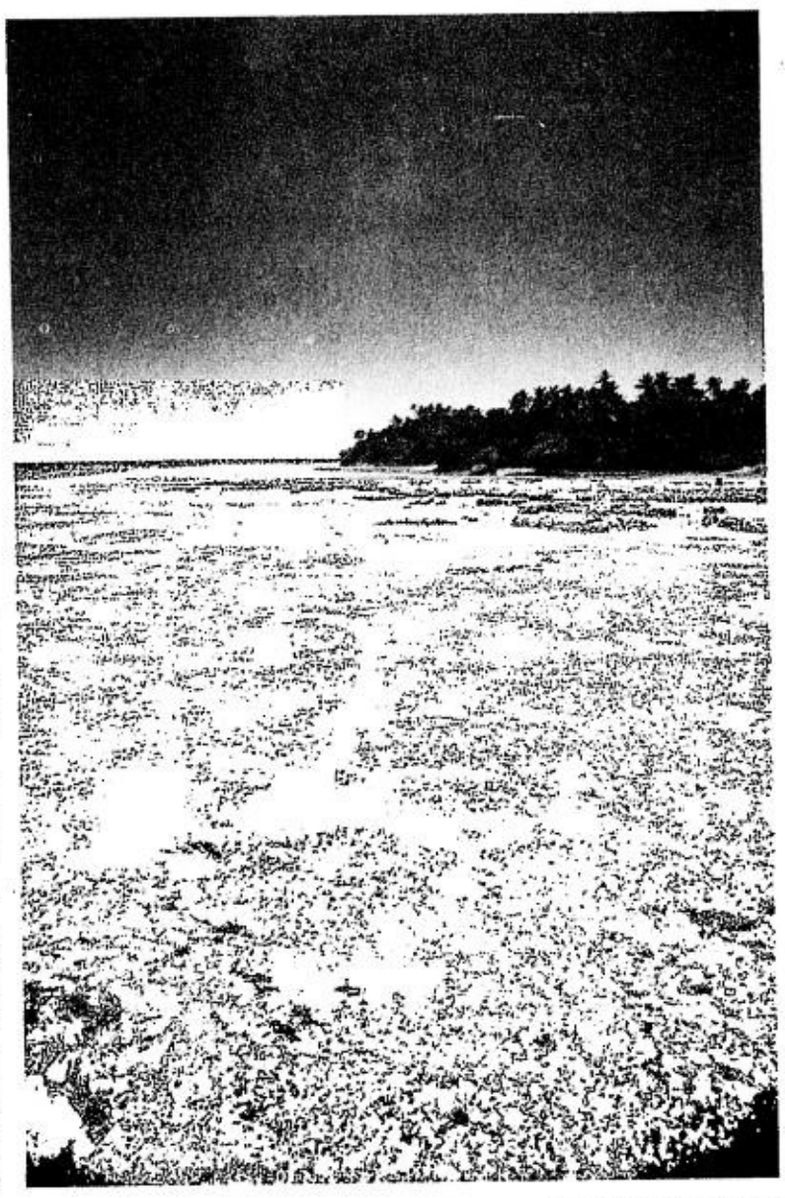
Mercifully, the stereotype has been supplanted by the recent progression of surfing into a performance sport. Skateboarding and snowboarding have grown exponentially with a more mediagenic display of athletic prowess. Surfing had to catch up despite being the original board sport. Radical maneuvers on earth are now being attempted on the much more fluid and difficult medium of water. While it is easy to keep practicing moves on solid ground, the always shifting nature of waves demands a steeper learning curve.

Although he placed third in the international cup, David Weare of South Africa displayed the most progressive moves in the competition. After a ride inside a barreling wave, Weare would launch off the wave face, rotate 360 degrees five feet in the air and land upright to continue surfing. Local riders were taking notes and have attempted more radical maneuvers, but are still way off the level achieved by the visiting pros.

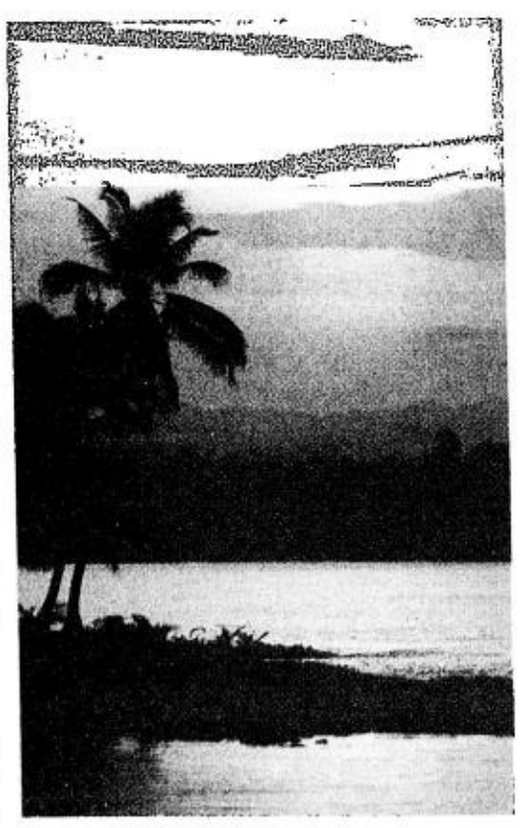
What is lacking is support for the local riders, who need more exposure to topnotch surfing, ideally abroad, and in more world-class competitions than the annual one in Siargao.

Just getting to Siargao was a problem for local surfers. Surf town Baler in Aurora had the largest contingent but also the tightest budget—the members had only one-way boat tickets and were counting on winning some of the prize money for their fare home. One of them had deviously offered to do the week's marketing for his mother and then, cash in hand, headed straight to the bus station for the trip to Manila and on to Siargao.

But Baler's top surfer, Edmund Mendoza, did earn enough from his 3rd-place finish in the nationals to bring the boys home.



CRYSTAL-CLEAR waters in front of the Cloud Nine break (where Fernando Alipayo, top, shows off masterful form)



FLAMING (but tranquil) sunset

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NORTHWEST Airlines announced that it had been named "Best North American Airline" by the readers of TTG Asia and TTG China newspapers as part of the TTG Travel Awards 2002 program.

Contenders in each of the award categories were nominated by readers of the two publications. Surveys were distributed to the more than 28,000 readers, and nearly 28 percent responded.

The award was accepted on Northwest's behalf by Perry Cantarutti, the carrier's managing director of marketing and distribution for Asia, at the 14th Travel Awards ceremony in Bangkok.

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To qualify for a kit, visitors have to book tour packages (with a minimum three- night stay at a Singapore hotel) with participating travel agents. Lucky early birds in the Philippines and Malaysia will get an additional shopping voucher at a leading IT mall worth S$20.

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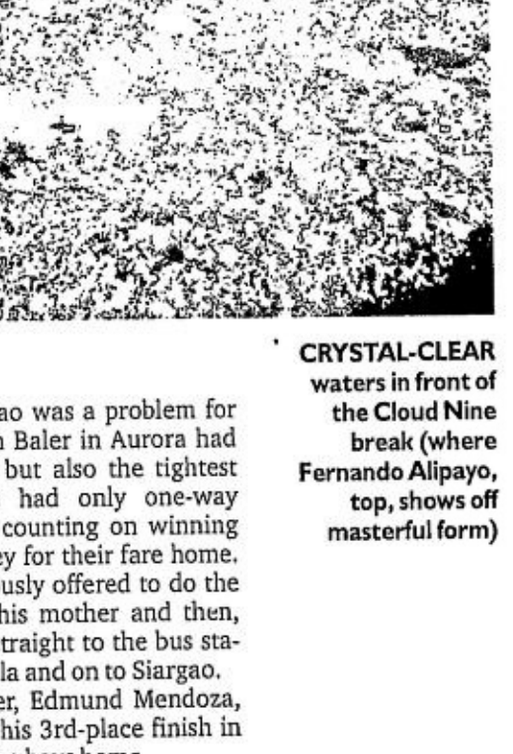
Guests will enjoy accommodation of two nights and three days, two complimentary breakfasts and lunches, round-trip airport and boat transportation service, and complimentary use of selected non-motorized aqua sports facilities.

Now managed by Barceló Hotels and Resorts, the Pearl Farm is located amid a vast coastline of white-sand beaches, abundant marine life, rock formations and lush mangroves.

For reservations and more information, call the Manila sales office at 867-2951 or 867-2847 or fax at 867-1476. Guests may also make direct reservations through www.barcelo-asia.com



PEARL of a resort

Legazpi has model program on child abuse prevention

THE BICOL Region is among the five regions in the Philippines with the highest incidence of child abuse. But the Bicolanos have not resigned themselves to their fate. A very new initiative by the Social Action Center-Legazpi (SAC-Legazpi) has already made enough of a favorable impression that it has become a model for other non-government organizations that are also working in the area of child abuse.

SAC-Legazpi was established in 1972 as the social action arm of the Diocese of Legazpi. In 1999, armed with skills learned from the Child and Family Services, Philippines Inc. (CFSPI), SAC-Legazpi decided to make child abuse prevention and rehabilitation one of its major programs in response to the growing incidence of child abuse in the province of Albay.

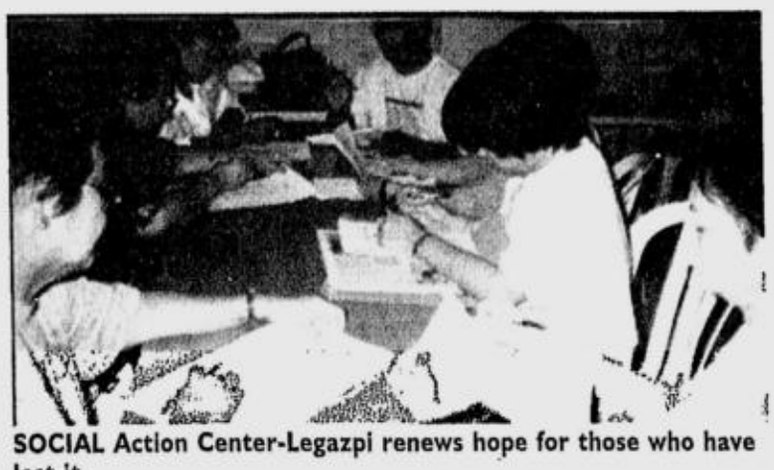
It set up the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Unit (CAPIU), in partnership with the Consuelo Foundation and with technical support from the CFSPI. SAC-Legazpi launched organizing and networking initiatives targeting members of the five pillars of the justice system that could have an impact in the solution of the problem (prosecution, court, correction, law enforcement and the community) in selected areas.

The CAPIU aims to promote and establish effective and efficient collaboration among the different components of the justice system to prevent and manage child abuse cases. It works towards the development of a centralized and coordinated response to child abuse in selected cities and municipalities in Albay.

CAPIU was able to bring its message on the need to protect children to 175 barangays. A total of 194 service providers have been trained in the various aspects of handling child abuse. Junior youth advocates, now numbering 113, are active in community-based advocacy. Awareness of the issue of child abuse, as well as child rights, has risen.

The new initiative fits in nicely with the original programs of SAC-Legazpi designed to empower people to participate in addressing political, social and economic issues that affect them. The organization conducts information drives, training and education, and creation of effective mechanisms and structures like networks and alliances to achieve its goal. Networks and people's organizations are strengthened to contribute, reinforce and support good local governance; promote the welfare of children and women; and increase economic potentials/productivity of program partners.

These achievements earned SAC-Legazpi a nomination to the 2002 Consuelo Awards, which recognizes outstanding NGOs that have made a significant difference in the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children, women and families. Now on its second year, the awards program is named after Consuelo Zobel Alger, founder of the non-profit US-based foundation that bears her name. The award, to be given on Nov. 27, will honor an NGO that has clearly demonstrated excellence in fulfilling Consuelo's wish to "renew hope for those who have lost it or to give hope to those who never had it."



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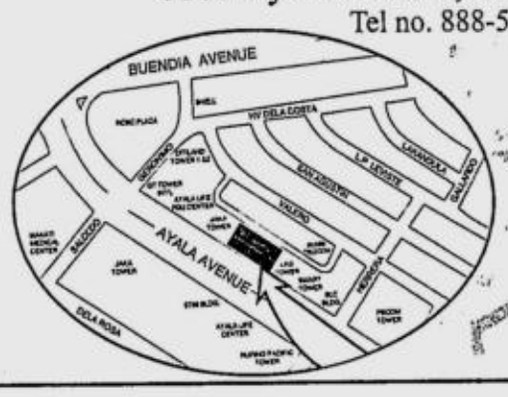

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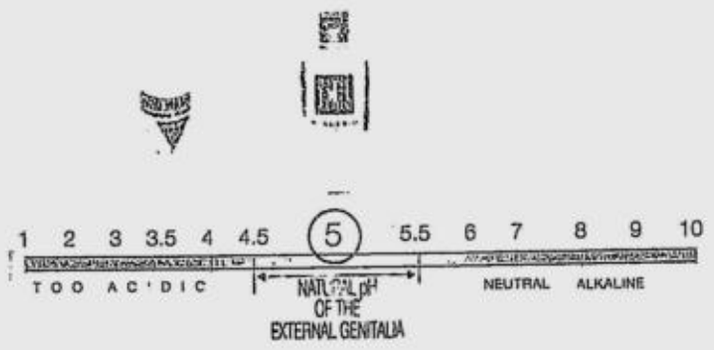

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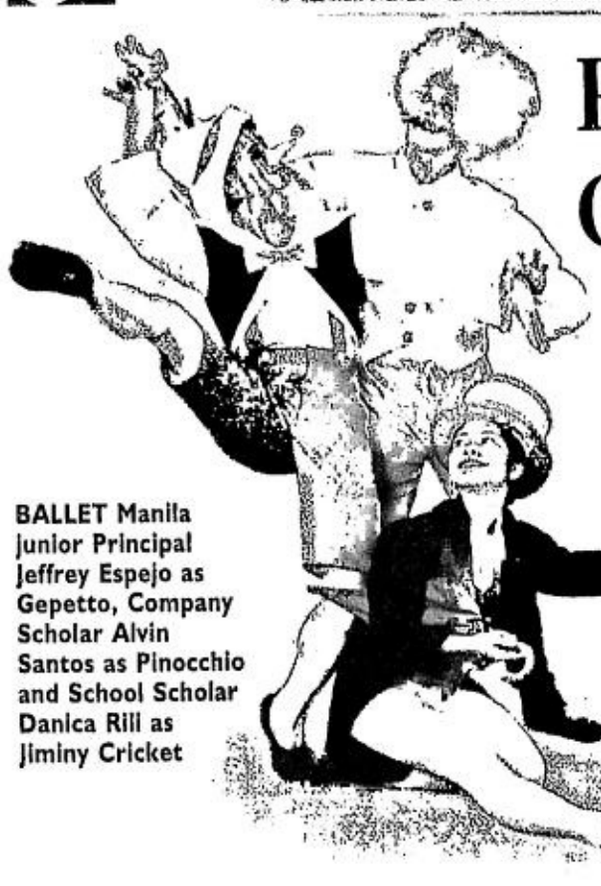
Pinocchio: Early Christmas gift



BALLET Manila junior Principal Jeffrey Espejo as Gepetto, Company Scholar Alvin Santos as Pinocchio and School Scholar Danica Rili as Jiminy Cricket

"WE had "Pinocchio" lined up as our Christmas ballet since last year, before the publicity of Pinocchio, the movie of Benigni's began," says Ballet Manila artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde.

Pinocchio, the ballet's central character, has to prove himself brave, honest and good before he is transformed by the Blue Fairy from a wooden puppet into a real boy. With his trusty sidekick, Jiminy Cricket, Pinocchio meets up with the Fox, the Cat, Stromboli and the giant Monstro, the famous whale. Choreographed by BM ballet master Osias Barroso, Pinocchio will have its world premiere in the Aliw Theater in Star City, a new theater with 3,000 seats, CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard.

Performances of "Pinocchio" will run today Nov. 20-24, 29-30 and Dec. 1. Call Ballet Manila at 512-5032/5031 or 525-5967/1584.

BALLET Manila soloists Sandra Lynn Huang as Jiminy Cricket, Jerome Espejo as Pinocchio and demi soloist Marcus Tolentino as Stromboli

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SHOW	SONG TITLE	KEYWORD
Voltes V	Opening Theme Intro	V5intro
	Opening Theme Chorus	V5chorus
	Closing Theme	V5close2
Ghost Fighter	Main Theme Intro	ghfightopen
	Main Theme Chorus	ghfightchorus
	Closing Theme	ghfightclose
Flame of Recca	Main Theme	reccaopen
	Closing Theme	reccaclose
	Love is Changing (Closing)	loveischange
Hunter X Hunter	Main Theme	hxhopen
	Ohayu (Main Theme)	hxhmain
	Kaze No Uta (Ending Song)	hxhending
Fushigi Yugi	Main Theme	fyugiopen
	Closing Theme	fyugiclose
Daimos	Main Theme	daimosopen
Bubblegum Crisis	Main Theme	bgumopen
Oh My Goddess	Main Theme	omgopen
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ASSUNTA de Rossi looks the part of a winsome bride.

Wedding of the year—in 2004

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by John Mossige

IT HAS been a year fraught with headline-hogging drama, but Assunta de Rossi's checkered life is bound to take a whimsical twist once she marches down the aisle with her beau Jules Ledesma. The controversial congressman of Negros Occidental's first district once read in a magazine article that his fiancée dreams of a "Princess Diana wedding," complete with a horse-drawn carriage, and he intends to give her just that.

"I begged him not to pursue the idea anymore since I wasn't serious," says the actress, "but he has insisted on pushing through with his plan. In fact, he has started talking with the *karuwahe's* (carriage) designer."

After junking his plan to get married at the Batasan, Jules chose to stage his fantasy wedding at the Fort Santiago upon the suggestion of film director Joel Lamangan. Oddly enough, Assunta will also have little say on what she'll be wearing. Her Prince Charming wants her to slip into an exact replica of his mom's wedding gown, an off-the-shoulder number made of Belgian lace, designed by the legendary Ramon Valera.

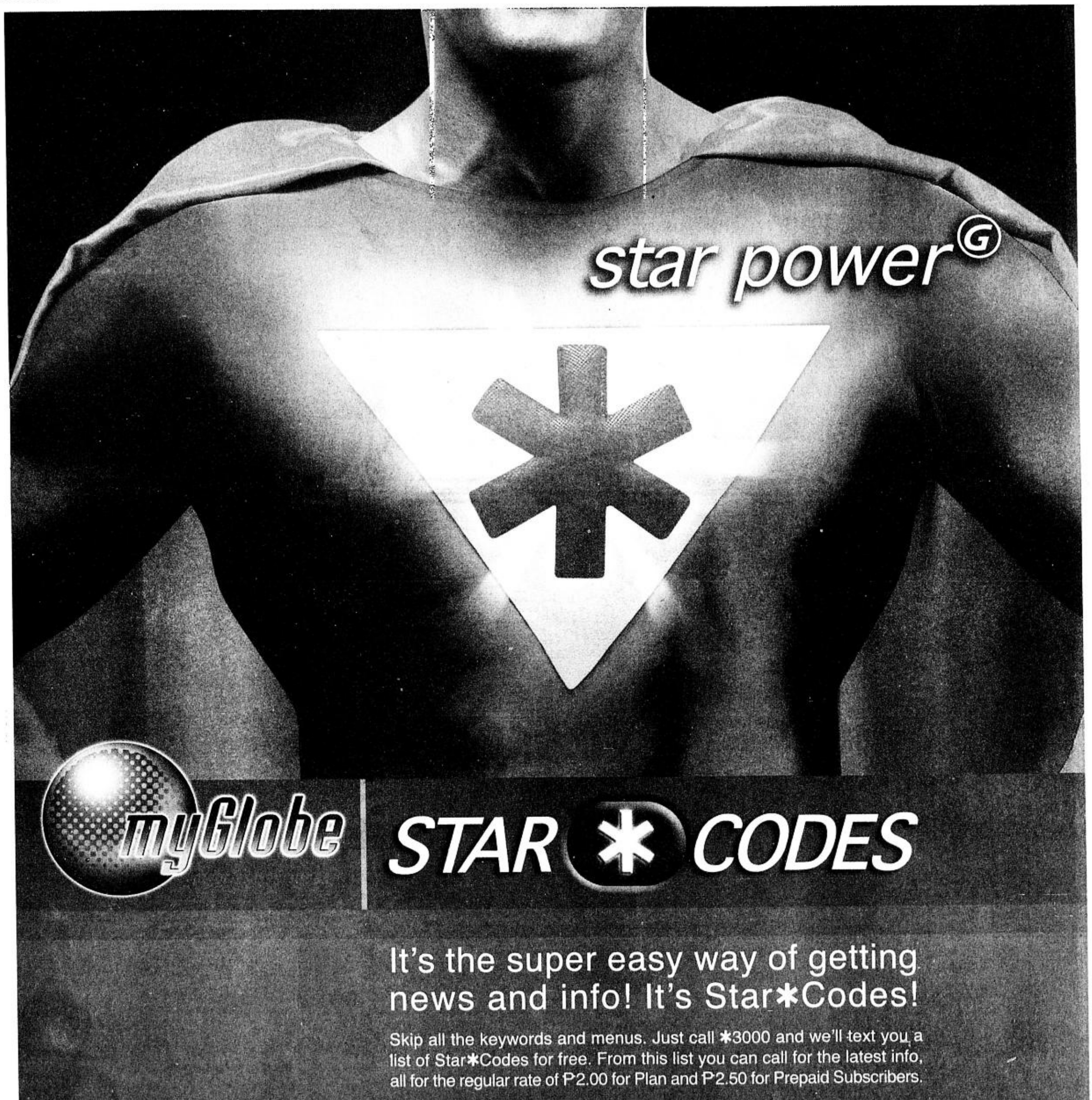
"His mom is probably my size except that I'm taller," she says. "It's really a simple gown made exquisite because of the Belgian lace. Except for the imported fabric, Jules wants everything sourced locally in keeping with the wedding's Filipiniana motif."

Wedding ring

The wedding ring has already been taken care of. Aside from a commitment ring that features a perfect stone set on platinum, Assunta proudly wears a wedding band on her right ring finger. "We will soon have it legalized," she says with a chuckle.

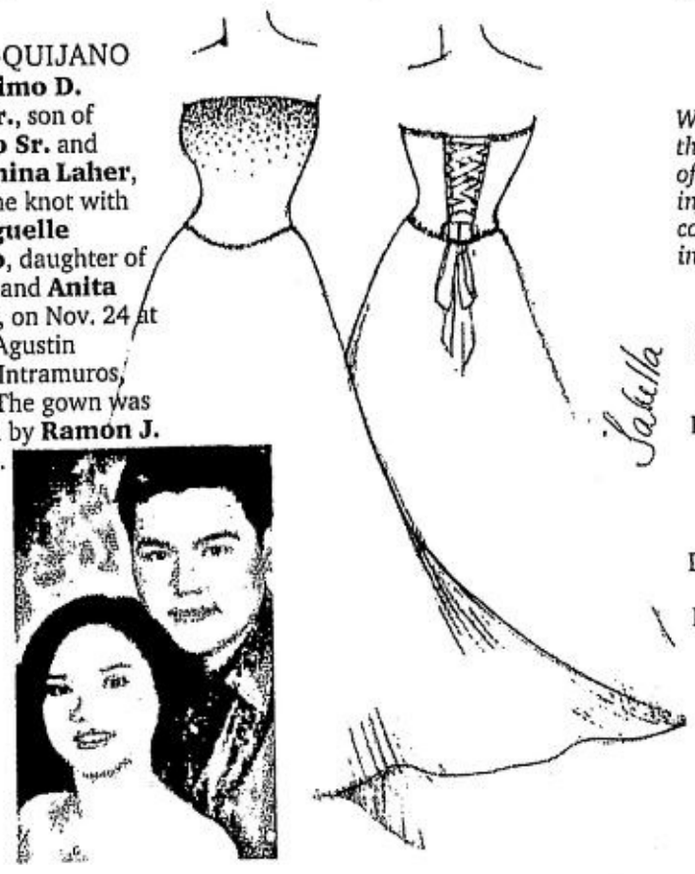
In the meantime, Assunta gamely slips into several wedding gowns designed by Frederick

WEDDING/ p.D4



Milestones

We accept announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send in the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and related brief information. Readers may send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



LAHER-QUIJANO

Dr. **Teotimo D. Laher Jr.**, son of **Teotimo Sr.** and **Wilhelmina Laher**, will tie the knot with Dr. **Abeguelle Quijano**, daughter of **Marvin** and **Anita Qujano**, on Nov. 24 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. The gown was designed by **Ramon J. Sabella**.

LABATOS-BALAGTAS

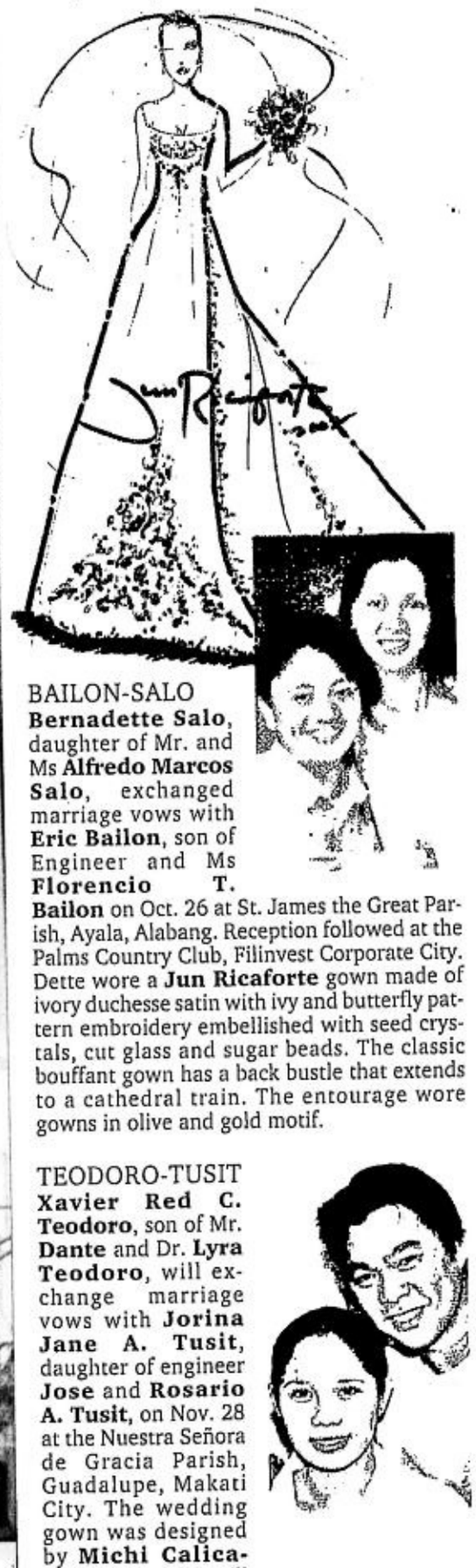
Rolando V. Labatos, son of **Bonifacio** and **Gloria V. Labatos** of UPCO, UPLB, Los Baños City, and **Marianne D. Balagtas**, daughter of **Lino** and **Noemi D. Balagtas** of Sucol, Calamba City, will exchange marriage vows on Dec. 14, 9 a.m., at the Parish of Immaculate Conception, Los Baños. Reception will follow at Ralph's Hot Springs & Garden Resort, Km. 59 National Highway, Lalakay, Los Baños City. The bridal gown was designed by **Ella Decena** of Trixie's Bridal Boutique, located at A. Burgos St., Calamba City.

AREVALO-BRUAL

Luis Felix M. Arevalo, son of **Antonio** and **Milagros Arevalo** of Los Angeles, California, will exchange vows with **Maria Cristina O. Brual**, youngest daughter of the late **Jose Pepito** and **Margarita Brual** of Bauan, Batangas, on Nov. 23 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish in Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception will follow at the Quezon Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel, Makati. The bride will wear a gown by **Rajo Laurel**.

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

MR. **Casto P. Magsaysay** and Ms. **Consuelo C. Rivera** commemorated their 60th wedding anniversary with a thanksgiving Mass and renewal of vows last Oct. 17 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church, Quezon City. The couple's nine children and 25 grandchildren feted them at a reception in the Pacific Grand Ballroom, 7/F Pan Pacific Manila, corner M. Adriatico and Gen. Malvar, Malate, Manila.



BAILON-SALO

Bernadette Salo, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Alfredo Marcos Salo**, exchanged marriage vows with **Eric Bailon**, son of Engineer and Ms **Florencio T. Bailon** on Oct. 26 at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala, Alabang. Reception followed at the Palms Country Club, Filinvest Corporate City. Dette wore a **Jun Ricaforte** gown made of ivory duchesse satin with ivy and butterfly pattern embroidery embellished with seed crystals, cut glass and sugar beads. The classic bouffant gown has a back bustle that extends to a cathedral train. The entourage wore gowns in olive and gold motif.

TEODORO-TUSIT

Xavier Red C. Teodoro, son of Mr. **Dante** and Dr. **Lyra Teodoro**, will exchange marriage vows with **Jorina Jane A. Tusit**, daughter of engineer **Jose** and **Rosario A. Tusit**, on Nov. 28 at the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe, Makati City. The wedding gown was designed by **Michi Calica-Sotto**. Reception will be held at Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

ARAUMI-ROMERO

Nobuaki Araumi, son of **Minoru** and **Masako Araumi**, and **Rowena Romero**, daughter of **Ulysses** and **Priscilla Romero**, exchanged marriage vows recently at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila in Makati City.

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Milestones

MENDOZA DEBUT

Maureen Melendres Mendoza marked her 18th birthday on Sept. 18 with a party at Buckingham Hills Subdivision in Taal, Batangas. Maureen, eldest daughter of PNB branch manager **Cesar Mendoza** and COA regional cluster director **Emmie Melendres-Mendoza**, is a junior in Mass Communications at St. Scholastica's College in Manila. She wore a gown created by **Ed Alejandrino** and was made up by Sheboom of Lemery, Batangas.

JOVEN DEBUT

Aisa Sherlain S. Joven, daughter of **Nestor** and **Fina Joven**, celebrated her debut on Oct. 26 at the Intramuros ballroom of Manila Midtown Hotel. **Aisa** is from Parañaque City and is a student of DLSU-College of St. Benilde, taking up Computer Application. **Leonard Co** designed her gown.

CONCEPCION-SORIANO

Roderick B. Concepcion, son of Mr. **Rodolfo** and Mrs. **Nelia Concepcion**, will wed **Walwynne C. Soriano**, daughter of Mr. **Alberto** and Mrs. **Fe Soriano**, on Nov. 24, 2:45 p.m., at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Daily Mirror St., West Triangle, QC. Reception will follow at Jade Valley Cantonese Cuisine, 39 Scout Torillo corner, Timog Ave., QC. The bride will wear a gown designed by Teresing's Bridals.

EXALTACION-AGUSTIN

Olegario Luisito Exaltacion Jr., son of Mr. **Luis** and Mrs. **Teresita Exaltacion**, will exchange marital vows with Coun. **Sharon Agustin**, daughter of Mr. **Feliciano** and Mrs. **Corazon Agustin**, on Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m., at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Sabitan St., Sto. Rosario, Malolos, Bulacan. Reception will follow at the Golden Ville Clubhouse, Golden Ville Subdivision, Longos, Malolos, Bulacan. The bride will wear an off-shoulder piña jusi gown studded with rhinestones and Swarovski crystals.

She's confused about her feelings for an older man

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Like GMC, one of your letter senders, I have fallen for one who is 18 years older than me. I used to go out with his younger brother but when things didn't work out between us, I found myself spending a lot of time with Vic. That was when I started falling for him.

We had a lot in common. He told me things he never told his long-time friends. I was overwhelmed by his confidence and the attention he gave me. He was like an older brother I never had, and at the same time he was someone special. But for two months now, he has not kept in touch with me or his other friends.

I don't know if he sees me as just one of his many friends and little sisters and confidantes, or as someone special. And I don't know if I'm really in love with him or just overwhelmed by the attention he gave me. But I miss him a lot and I'd give anything for us to be together again.

Of course, I'd give anything to hear him say that he feels the same way for me. But I'm not sure how I'd react if that happens.

I just want to know how I can forget him without being bitter or angry and still be his friend.

BBC

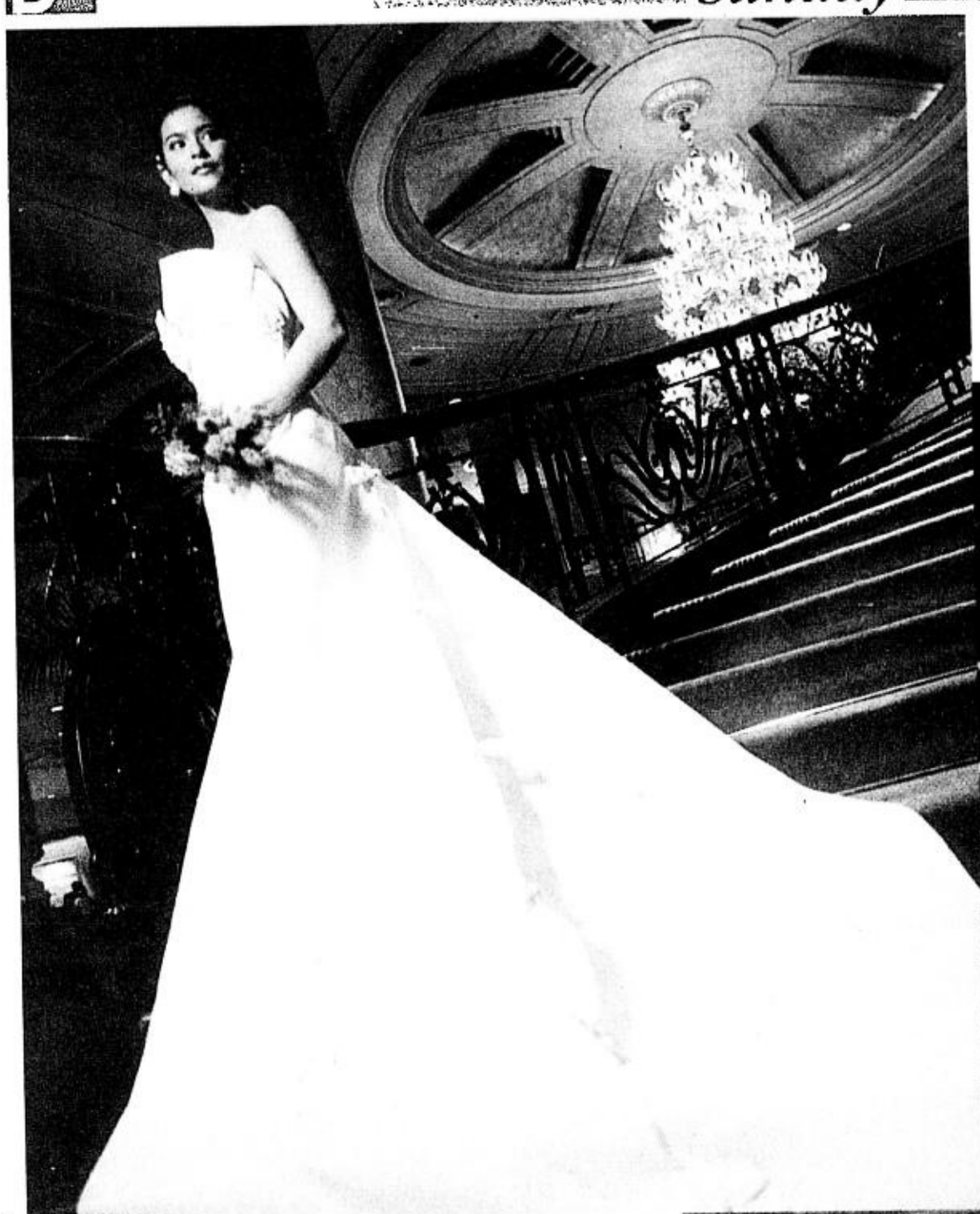
The problem in the case of GMC and his neighbor is not that he is 17 years older than she is, but that she is, in fact, still a minor. Your case is different because you and Vic are both past 18 and, therefore, are legally free to pursue an adult relationship, neighbors' murmurs of May-December affair and cradle snatching notwithstanding.

The hitch in your case, however, is that Vic appears not to see you as more than a friend or younger sister or confidante. That seems pretty certain, because if he has special feelings for you, he would have shown it. At the very least, he would have bid you goodbye properly before he left. And if he were unable to do that because of the rush, he would have sent you a word of where he is now.

Whether it is love or crush that you feel for him, you just have to get over that feeling because, unrequited, it would hurt you more than it would make you happy.

I hope you will see that there's nothing to be bitter about. You were not rejected; you did not tell Vic that you love him, and his disappearance was not a reply. He simply left. And fate did not single you out for this heartbreak; it is just that hearts do not always quickly find their match. I would like to think that we get mismatched, not because we need to be hurt or punished or picked on by some cosmic designs, but because by being paired incorrectly we learn to recognize and enjoy our heart's right match.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



THE ACTRESS, in a glam mode that harks back to the '50s, wears a tubular gown with an empire-cut skirt. The paneled top is accented with beaded Belgian lace, while the extra-long skirt comes with a detachable train.

Wedding of the year—in 2004

Jules Ledesma has obliged Assunta de Rossi.

She will have her 'Princess Diana wedding'—horse-drawn carriage, fantasy ceremonies and all—but not yet

SHE looks simply divine in a fully embroidered bustier with a bouffant skirt embellished with faux pearls and beads.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO MARC DELA CRUZ AND JULIE CEDO

THE POLITICIAN'S future wife goes Imeldific in a princess-cut satin gazar gown with a Sabrina neckline and train that derives inspiration from the '50s and the '70s. Peralta eschews faux pearls and embroidery in favor of cascading boa feathers.

WHO says only members of royalty can wear a tiara? Tall and tan Assunta wears one to match her off-the-shoulder gown made of silk gazar, with a pair of ruffled sleeves accented with beaded and cutout lace that exude romance.

Wedding of the year—in 2004

From page D1

Peralta. Romance is in the air as Peralta made use of such fine materials as silk gazar, duchess satin and *piña* in fashioning bouffant and princess-cut gowns, some lined with intricate embroidery, beadwork and plumose details that hark back to the '50s, for his star model.

She and Jules were supposed to seal their union in civil rights two weeks ago in San Carlos, in time for the city's fiesta. But Assunta's pending show biz commitments have pushed back their plans for another two months.

Strangely enough, Assunta was recently inducted into the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. headed by "Manay" Gina de Venecia.

The wedding in Fort Santiago won't happen until sometime in 2004. By then, Assunta hopes that she would have patched up differences with her family. Much has been written about the word war between Jules and Assunta's younger sister Alessandra. For some reason, the de Rossis don't seem to be very fond of their future in-law. In turn, Jules has made little effort to hide his real feelings over the rebuff.

Caught in the middle is poor Assunta, who has to absorb all of the brickbats hurled at each other by the opposite camps. What's a 19-year-old girl to do? There seemed to be no middle ground as circumstances nearly forced her to choose between the man she loves and the family that stood by her all these years. In the end, she chose to bide her time.

"I really had a hard time," she confesses. "I never answered back despite all the negative things they said about my fiancé. I know better not to fight with my own family. I just hope things will turn out for the better especially now that Christmas is just around the corner."

Charm offensive

Assunta has lately been on a charm offensive in hopes of winning back members of her family, especially Alessandra. She recently surprised her sister by showing up at the premiere of Alessandra's critically acclaimed film "Mga Munting Tinig." She also makes it a point to visit her mom every now and then.

"Of course, Alex (Alessandra) will be my maid of honor," she exclaims. "My other sisters will be the bridesmaids."

Then there was the kidnapping episode that ultimately proved a blessing in disguise. Armed men abducted Jules' two children by his late wife Victoria Pek-Ledesma two months ago, while they were on their way to school. Assunta and Jules again found themselves in the limelight as they picked up the dazed youngsters after their father resorted to a "tried-and-tested formula" to secure their release.

"The kids were traumatized by the experience, but they're now doing fine," she says. "I was so depressed when that happened, but the incident has brought us closer. I'm like a mother to them."

Assunta has been aware from the start that such a high-profile relationship is bound to raise some eyebrows. They can call it whatever they want, but she maintains that theirs won't be a marriage of convenience. If you ask her, all the riches in the world cannot ease those long, cold, lonely nights.

"Some people say I'm only marrying him for his money," she shares. "Oh my God! What kind of thinking is that? I can't imagine myself marrying someone I don't love. I won't be able to stand that."

No Senate intentions

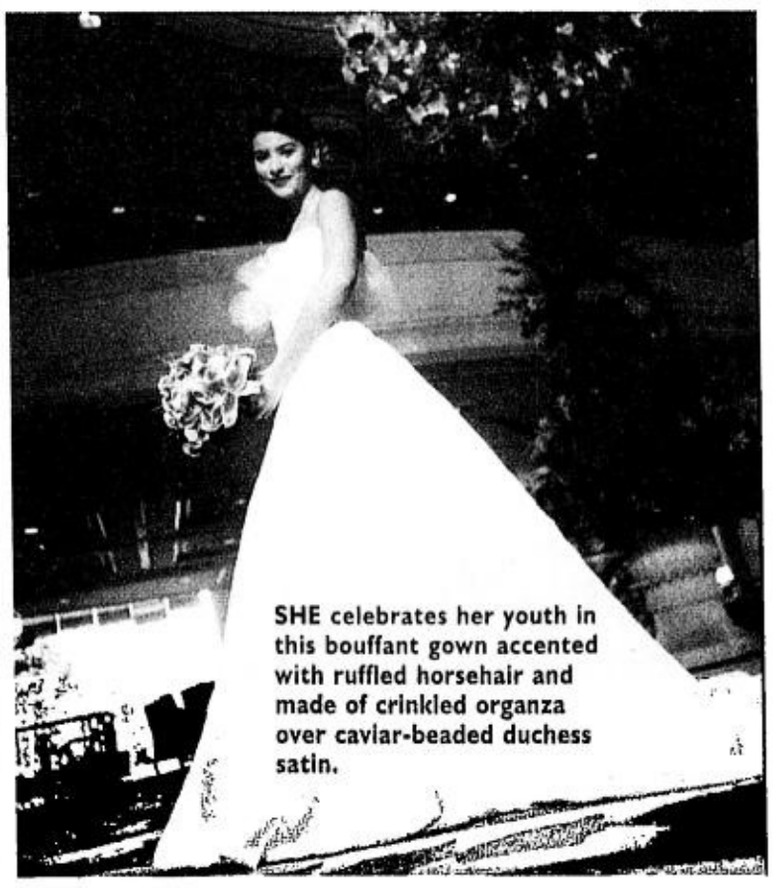
Not that she minds, but Assunta won't be visiting the sick and kissing babies—at least, not that soon—other than her own (they plan to have two). Jules, she says, has no intentions of running for the Senate now that he's on his third and final term as congressman.

"Not once did he use an *artista* to campaign for him in the past," she says. "He has grown tired of being a lawmaker and now wants to focus on his family life. But he won't say no should the President appoint him to a Cabinet position in the future."

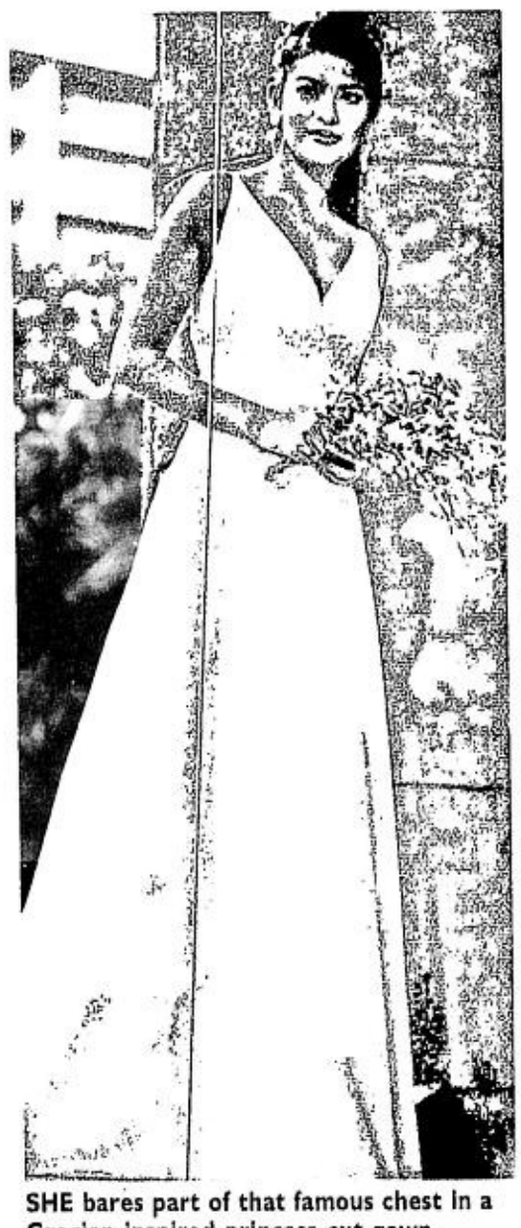
One thing is certain, however. Assunta will soon bid her bold image adieu with the showing of "Bahid." Directed by Lamangan, who also inspired her to come up with an award-winning performance in "Hubog," her latest starrer will hit the big screen two weeks from now.

"Saying no to bold films was my idea, not his," she clarifies. "It's better to quit while I'm still at my peak than to get married and fade from the scene because no one wants to get me anymore." Then again, Assunta could still change her mind.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



SHE celebrates her youth in this bouffant gown accented with ruffled horsehair and made of crinkled organza over caviar-beaded duchess satin.



SHE bares part of that famous chest in a Grecian-inspired princess-cut gown sprinkled with Swarovski crystals.

FREDERICK Peralta with her star model

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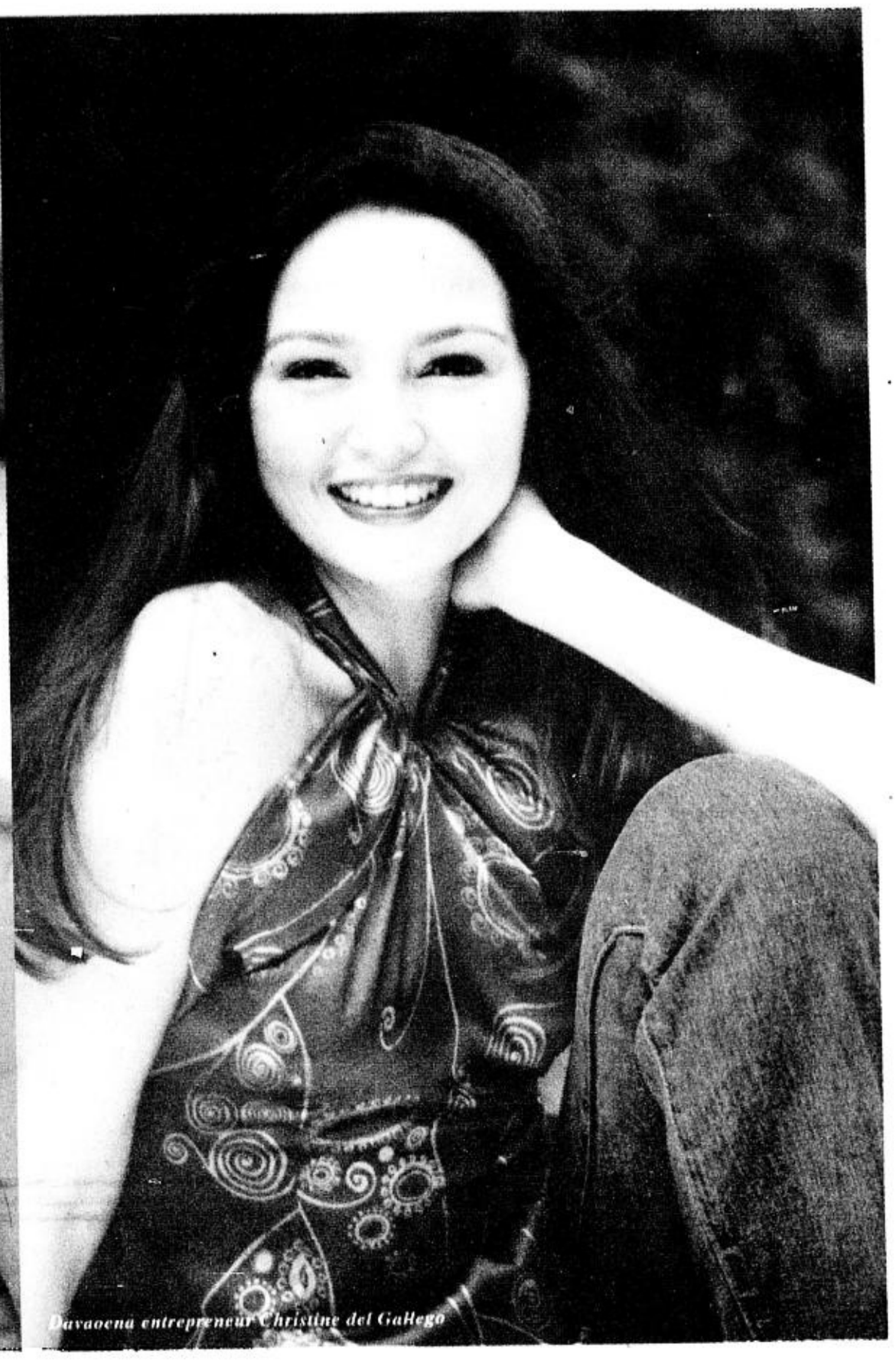

Davaoena entrepreneur Christine del Gallego

"...YOU'RE A POOR MAN'S DESIRE, AND A RICH MAN'S DREAM..."

-- Noel Pointer from the song Classy Lady

They're beautiful, accomplished, and undeniably smart. They're bon vivants, yes, and they have earned every bit of the right to be so, earning their wings and stature in this competitive and style-conscious society. Real classy ladies, they hardly have to wail and shout to demand respect, they command it. They're the fashion and professional icons that the sophisticated and discerning cabals respect, and also the ones they envy having achieved so much so young.

Although they dominate the social ether, make no mistake about it, they are not the snobs most uninformed copycats may assume them to be. "I'm really a cowboy," Ina Chiongbian proclaims over a gracefully swirling Merlot. Ina, well-travelled, breathtakingly stylish, and smolderingly beautiful, is now very much the living acclaim of redecorating socialites, being the budding Interior and Lighting Designer du Jour. Her work, timeless spatial symphonies of texture and lights, is now very much in demand with the smart tasteful set.

Christine del Gallego, the preternaturally pretty Southern Belle from Davao similarly attests to a welcome lack of social hoity-toity. "I prefer the beach," she says wistfully, a meaningful tone of daydreaming. There are no pretensions behind that winning smile, neither anything fake about that charming, girlish giggle. Like a schoolgirl who won at an unusually long streak of Jackstones. Though it's easy to imagine her not much changed since her Woodrose days, the girl is nonetheless a go-getter, hammering out a successful fashion retail career.

Women with taste, women with unmistakable style. Their secret is subtlety, not ostentation. A credible subtle whisper over a grating scream. They are the stylish leaders most in the know try to emulate. You can expect them to make the most exhaustive choices as to where to shop, dine, and saunter. It's no wonder then that they were chosen as SMART Money spokespeople, to give their imprimatur on the convenience and utility that this award-winning innovation can give.

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o Do wallet-to-wallet transfers. With SMART Money, you can transfer value from one SMART Money card to another. Parents will find this feature most helpful – they can give their children SMART Money cards and then simply transfer their kids' allowance from their card to their kids' with just a few clicks on their SMART GSM Celfone. Parents with children studying in faraway cities can even send payments for tuition, books and school supplies at a cost much more affordable than using money transfers or couriers.

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ADVT.

Marilao Church is national shrine of Divine Mercy

WHEN Fr. Vic Robles was building the shrine of the Divine Mercy in Sta. Rosa, Marilao, Bulacan in the '90s, God guided him every step of the way. Many people helped him along the way that he has included all of them in his thank-you card, which also serves as an invitation to the proclamation of the church as national shrine. The event will be held on Nov. 30, 6 a.m., and to be presided by Bishop Orlando Quevedo, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president.

He wrote: "We would like to thank the thousands of people who helped build this church; the wealthy who shared their abundance; the gifted who gave their skills and labor; the less fortunate who offered their prayers; friends and kinsmen from faraway lands; the pilgrims and all those who helped transform a dream into an inspiring reality."

When I attended the feast of the Divine Mercy last April in Marilao, I was amazed at the thousands of people who patiently stood under the heat of the sun while Mass was going on. The Mass was held in a sprawling area at the back of the church. People came to ask for healing of their illness, to say "thank you" or to pray for the solution of their problems. Many went home happy and relieved.

John Paul II on Divine Mercy

When Pope John Paul II blessed the shrine of the Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland on Aug. 11, he said the all-powerful love of God is especially needed at a time when mankind encounters many manifestations of evil. The shrine, located in Lagiewniki, stands as a sentinel of God's mercy and, according to the Pope, the place where "we could glimpse once more in Christ the face of the Father."

In the Philippines, Fr. Vic Robles, Rector of the national shrine, says, "May this house of God stand as a living symbol of our faith, a monument of friendship that made us one, our fullest offering of thanksgiving for this beneficience."

Our Lady of Piat to join Marian procession

The miraculous image of Our Lady of Piat will be flown from Tuguegarao on Nov. 27 to attend the Marian procession on Dec. 1 in Intramuros. Before the procession, the image will be brought in a motorcade from the airport to St. Paul's College on Pedro Gil Street, Ermita where a Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m.

The government, the laity and clergy of Piat and Tuguegarao are coordinating the visit of Our Lady in Metro Manila.

Other schedules are Nov. 28, 4 p.m.—Mass at St. Paul's; Nov. 29—6 p.m. Mass—Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Sun Valley, Parañaque; Nov. 30, 6:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Masses at the same venue; Dec. 1 at 11 a.m., the image leaves for Fort Santiago for the 4:30 p.m. procession; Dec. 2-4, 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.—Masses at Mt. Carmel Parish in Project 6; Dec. 5-6, 12 nn, Mass at the Land Registration Authority on East Avenue, QC; Dec. 6, 6 p.m.—Mass at UP Bahay ng Alumni. After the Mass, the image leaves for Christ the King Seminary on E. Rodriguez. The Dec. 7 and 8 Masses are at 3 p.m.

After the 8 a.m. Mass on Dec. 9 in Christ the King Seminary, the image is brought to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Marcelino where Masses will be said at 12:10 p.m on Dec. 10. After the 12:10 p.m. Mass, the image will be brought to the Centennial Airport where a Mass will be said at 7:30 p.m.on Dec. 11. The image leaves for Tuguegarao at 11:40 a.m.

Cofradia is 22 years old

Since Imelda Cojuangco founded the Cofradia de la Immaculada Concepcion in 1980, the annual Marian procession on the first Sunday of December has grown from 20 *carrozas* to almost 80. The devotion to the Blessed Virgin under her many titles has become stronger through the passing years.

Helping Ms Cojuangco in this endeavor are a board of directors composed of Nenuca Blardony, Corinna Caparas, vice president; Lourdes Castañeda, Danny Dolor, Aurora Eizmendi, president; Ado Escudero, Zita Feliciano, Jaime Laya, Rosita Lesaca, Sonya Mathay, Helen Ong, Ofelia Recto, Marietta Santos and Allan Tengco.

Secretary is Jun Pablo, while treasurer is Vicky Tengco who is with Marietta Santos and Allan Tengco, who are *hermanos*.

Every year, the Cofradia holds the First Communion of public school graders. This year, the First Communion will take place at the Basilica of Immaculate Conception in Malolos, Bulacan, the province of *hermanos* Allan and his sister Vicky Tengco.

The procession is coordinated with the Intramuros Administration.

Church venerated images

The church venerated Marian images that will join the procession: Our Lady of Manaoag, Our Lady of Aranzazu in San Mateo, Rizal; Nuestra Señora de Dolores de Turumba of Pakil; Our Lady of La Salette of Silang Cavite; Our Lady of Peñafrancia of Naga; Our Lady of Remedios of Malate Church; Neustra Señora de Guia of Ermita; Our Lady of La Naval and Mary Help of Christians.

Perpetual procession

Ma. Phoebe San Jose will take her perpetual profession as a Carmelite nun on Nov. 16 in Laoag City with Bishop Ernesto Salgado as main celebrant and Fr. Alan Rieger, OCD as homilist.

The nun took the name Sister Ma. Phoebe of St. Joseph. My classmate Mildred Ranada called to say that the nun was inspired by stories in my column, so she entered the convent.

Ordination

The Servants of the Risen Christ Monastic Community will hold an ordination to the diaconate today, 9:30 a.m., at the Church of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Ramos, Tarlac. To be ordained by Bishop Cinenze are Arsenio Balmaceda of Bicol who took the religious name Frater Ignatius Arsenius and Jose Joker Bustaliño of Dipolog City who adopted the name Frater Joseph Albert. Both were engineers before they entered the monastic community founded by Fr. Ronald Thomas, SRC who is popularly known as Fr. Archie Cortez.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Madrigal-Valade wedding

Fr. Rogelio Alarcon will be the main celebrant at the wedding of Jamby Madrigal and Eric Jean Claude Valade on Dec. 7 in Calatagan, Batangas. Other celebrants are Fr. Larry Faraon, Fr. Francisco Tuaño and Fr. Sonny Ramirez. Best wishes, Jamby and Eric.

70 priests at funeral Mass

Bishop Ramon Arguelles and Bishop Benjamin Almoneda of Daet concelebrated with at least 70 priests in the funeral Mass of Fr. Nani Ibasco on Nov. 9 at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Chapel in Villamor Airbase. May your soul rest in peace, Father Nani. May we ask readers to pray for the repose of his soul. His ministry was cut short by a bullet.

Jobs needed

I am trying to help two of our parishioners in Malate Church find jobs. Edwin is a good painter and carpenter, while Marlon can work as a janitor. These poor men want to work and not just receive doleouts.

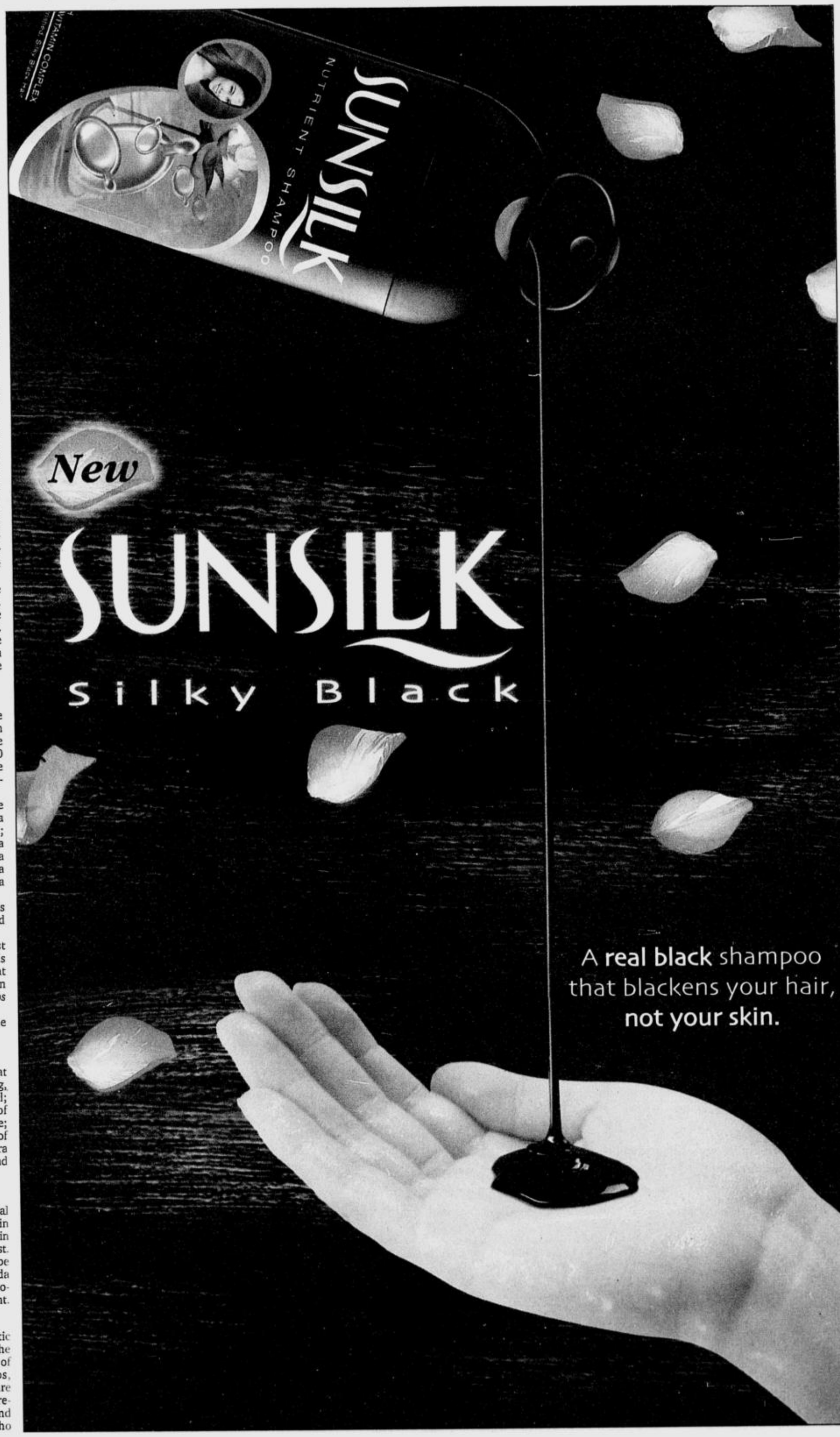
Also, an honor student in a Culion university is set to graduate in March, but doesn't have the money to finish her studies. Her mother is a laundrywoman. Please beep me at Easy Call 141-020543. Thank you for your kindness.

Vasulla Ryden in Manila

Vasulla Ryden, an Orthodox mystic, arrived in Manila last Saturday for a series of talks on the most recent messages to her of Our Lord Jesus Christ with His urgent call for unity of all religions and all nations.

Vasulla's first talk is scheduled today, 2 p.m., at the UP Theater in Diliman. Her second talk will be on Nov. 20 at the St. Ignatius de Loyola Basilica at Camp Aguinaldo at 7 p.m., after the 5:15 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ramon Arguelles. Ms Ryden will leave the following day.

HERMANOS **Mayores Vicky Tengco, Marietta Santos and Allan Tengco with Cofradia members Fr. Jay Lina and Fr. Johann Sebastian**



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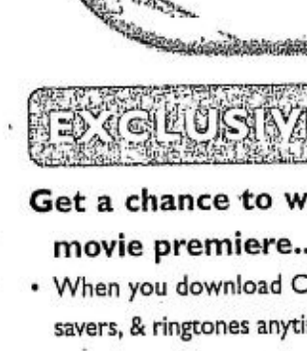

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Log on to jamesbond.com for more details on Die Another Day.

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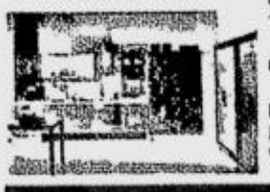
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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday LIFESTYLE

UMBRO

Slick night of tittle-tattle

To mark its first year, Philippine Tatler gathers Philippine society's loaded men—and women—in black

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DR. Randy Francisco, Philippine Tatler Managing Director Irene Martel-Francisco, chairman of Regional Tatler Dr. M. Mohindar and Philippine Tatler Editor Anton San Diego

SO where were you on Nov. 9? If you weren't at the Makati Shangri-La's Rizal Ballroom, you probably missed the social event of the year. Packed with the country's top socialites, tycoons, decision makers, stars and fashionistas, the inaugural Philippine Tatler Ball was simply the place to be.

The strictly-invitational event was the Tatler's way of marking a highly successful year, while at the same time honoring the achievements of a select few by the first Tatler Awards.

The high-profile VIPs rubbed elbows during cocktails. Interestingly, there was also a long queue of guests at the special Tatler booth, waiting for their photos to be taken à la "Men in Black," which the magazine has become known for.

The host for the evening was broadcast journalist Ces Oreña-Drilon. She got things moving quickly by introducing the chairman of the regional Tatlers, Dr. Boya Mohindar, who gave the welcome remarks. A sumptuous dinner followed, and guests were treated to the sounds of Sabor Latino and later, of Pops Fernandez, who cooed such standards as "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "I'll be Seeing You."

Philippine Tatler's editor Anton San Diego and Social editor Maurice Arcache then handed out the Tatler Awards, with assistance from Lina Ross, the Regional Tatler's editor in chief, and Irene Martel-Francisco, the managing director.

Named Women of Style and Substance were Vicky Zubiri, Rina Ortiz, Tina Ocampo, Nina Huang, Neriza Mathay and Margarita

SLICK/ p.E7

NEDY Tantoco, Patroness of the Arts Award

EXECUTIVE Secretary Alberto Romulo, Most Distinguished Gentleman Award recipient

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

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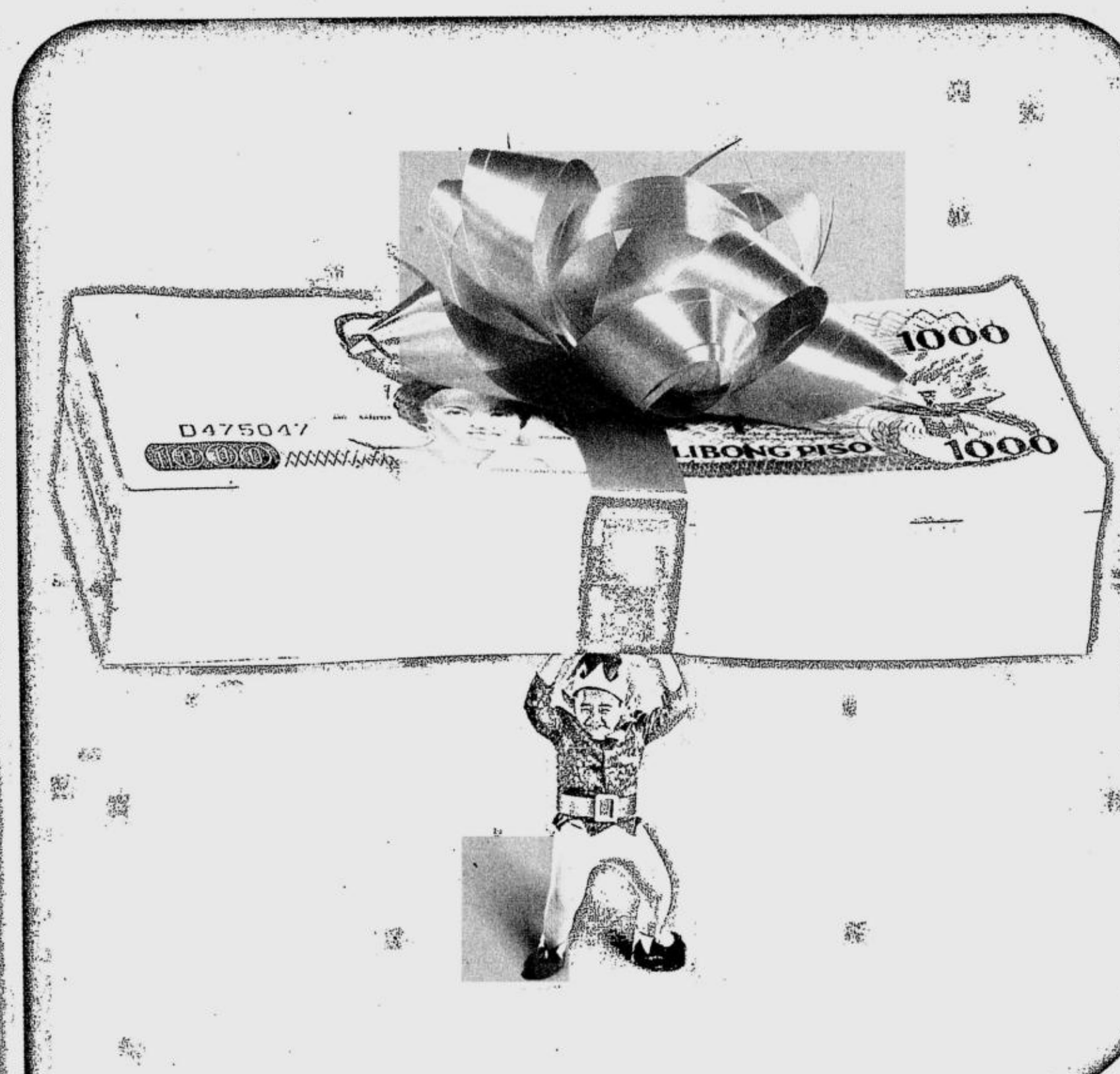

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BAM Aquino, Sen. Francis Pangilinan and Ria Tanjuatco

RENATO and Cora Florencio

(foreground) MIA Florencio and Rich Alvarez; Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia and Larry Fonacier

Swiss watch company opens flagship store

REP. Imee Marcos wears the Technomarine Butterfly.

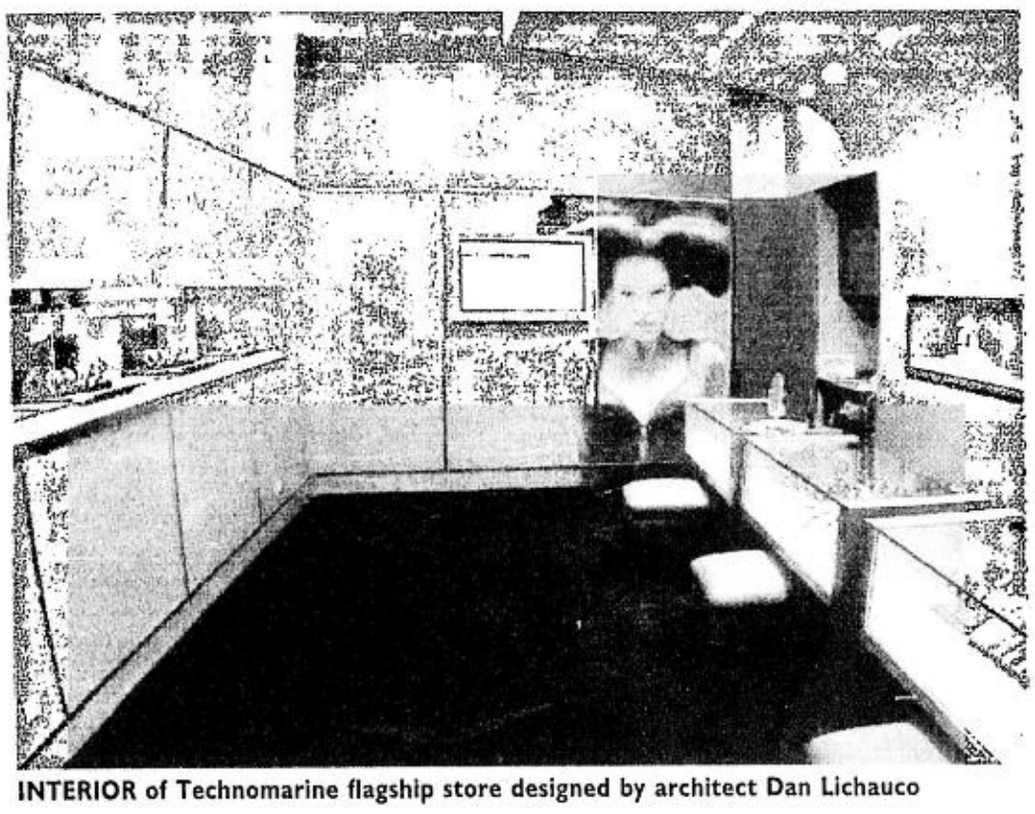
TECHNOMARINE has opened its flagship store at the G/F of the new Greenbelt 3 Lifestyle Mall, Ayala Center, Makati. The Swiss watch brand, which set the trend in diamonds and colorful gel bands, was originally introduced through Rafael Jewellery branches at Shangri-La Hotel.

Fr. Domi Guzman officiated the store's blessing, while Sen. Francis Pangilinan and Rep. Imee Marcos cut the ribbon.

Guests were Nini Licaros, Russell Sobrepeña, Mike Toledo, Anna Tiaoqui, Henry Penalosa, Rotary presidents Willie Sato, Mar Hernando and Benny Medel, Comelec Commissioner Julio Desamito, Cocoy Tacandong, Alex and Marixi Prieto, Philip Romualdez, Gen. Jaime Delos Santos, DTI Undersecretary Ernesto Ordonez, Jose Halili-Co and wife Lily, Rey Reyes, Manuel Lucente, Tomas Romualdo, Grace Tongco, Rotary governors Lina Aurelio, Johnny Aruego, Antonio Rufino, Agustin Tangco, Guiller Tumangan, Robert Castañeda; Ateneo Blue Eagles coach Joel Banal with players Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez and Larry Fonacier; Time Plus TechnoMarine distributors Sanjay and Vijay Chulani, PAMI's Rex Mendoza, Goody Ilagan,

NINI Licaros

MIKE Toledo



INTERIOR of Technomarine flagship store designed by architect Dan Lichauco

and Kat de los Santos, Mayor Albert Garcia, Dennis Aquino and Lisa Pastor and Joy Melendrez. Also seen viewing the collection were Angel Jacob, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Breakfast's Ria Tanjuatco and Bam Aquino, Inq7's Paolo Prieto, Ciara Sevilla, Jab Ongpin, Cuy Legazpi, Mia Cuadrante and Iya de los Santos.

Architect Dan Lichauco said he designed the TechnoMarine flagship store to mirror the colors of the sea. The shop has modern and clean lines. The new collection showcases innovatively designed watches.

The TechnoMarine Flagship Store is open from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily. TechnoMarine watches are also available at the Rafael Jewellery Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong, Rafael Jewellery at the Makati Shangri-La, My Diamond at Glorietta 4 , Time Plus at the Theater Mall in Greenhills and Washington in Rockwell.

MAURICE Archache and Marixi Prieto

PAOLO Prieto and Philip Romualdez

CIARA Sevilla and Alex Prieto

ESSA Remoquilo, Bam Aquino, Raffy Florencio and Paul Dennis Aquino

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Celebrant marks birthday at grand house of Magsaysays

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

MILLIE Sembrano did not have the usual grand bash this year to celebrate her birthday. She just stayed "at home," where relatives and friends came and called to wish her more years of happiness. But the next day was another story, as her gang in the Happiness Group took the opportunity of feting Millie at the home of **Jo Magsaysay** in Paradise Village.

The radiant celebrant was in flaming red, thanking one and all for bringing gourmet dishes from "old guard" Cebu families. The occasion was also a wonderful opportunity to view the newly refurbished Magsaysay home, with valuable antique furniture, beautiful paintings and an indoor garden lush with exotic plants.

Taking credit for it is Jo's talented son, **Glenn Magsaysay**, who did the Herculean job for several months. Meanwhile, Jo is staying at the home of her daughter, **Maureen M. Santos**, in nearby St. Michael's Village, so she would not be irritated by the noise, dust, etc.

"I'm back in Paradise now," Jo told her media friends. She writes a brilliant column in one of the Cebu dailies. When there are events, we usually have a car pool, especially if the venue is far. Usually, I go with **Jo** and **Ching Utzurrum**.

If it's a long ride, like Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, we listen to the tape of either Eartha Kitt, Frank Sinatra, Joni James, or even Ricky Nelson, and sing along. Occasionally, we listen to Queen.

One such foray was when we were invited by Shangri-La's PR manager **Neil Rumbaoa**, on behalf of the personable GM **Desmond Hatton**. When the whole gang was already at the lobby, we were led to the jetty near Cowrie Cove for a sunset cruise. Destination was the nearby Coral Point, where Desmond has a scenic flat with a breathtaking panoramic view.

Dinner was excellently prepared by Chef **Stefan Mueller**. The wine selection was done by F&B director **Dexter Cheng**. The staff of Shangri-La Mactan who came were **Jeremy Ambler**, director for rooms, and **Sheila Sepulveda**, director for marketing. From the press, there were Jo, Ching, **Nelia Neri**, **Mayen Tan**, **Joe Recio** and **Honey Loop**.

Breezing through Cebu and choosing the Shangri-La for their fifth visit in a couple of years were **Oscar** and **Sol Via** (commercial attaché of the Spanish Embassy) with their little daughters **Carlota** and **Sol**. They enjoyed the Cowrie Cove seafood specialties, Italian food at the Paparazzi, the beach and pool, the garden with its peacocks, and a visit to Cebu City for a dinner at the Montebello poolside.

***

A portion of the Cebu Plaza Hotel lobby has been transformed into an Abueva Art Gallery to honor National Artist for Sculpture **Napoleon Abueva**, who has Visayan roots (Bohol). The opening ceremony was graced by the artist himself and his wife Dr. **Sergia Abueva**.

Guest of honor was **Margot Osmeña**, Cebu City's First Lady, who was assisted by **Nestor Encinas** (VP of Pathfinders) in cutting the ribbon, and GM **Randy Baron**. Rev. Fr. **Alfie Africa** officiated the blessing. There are 12 works on exhibit and for sale, plus others from private collections.

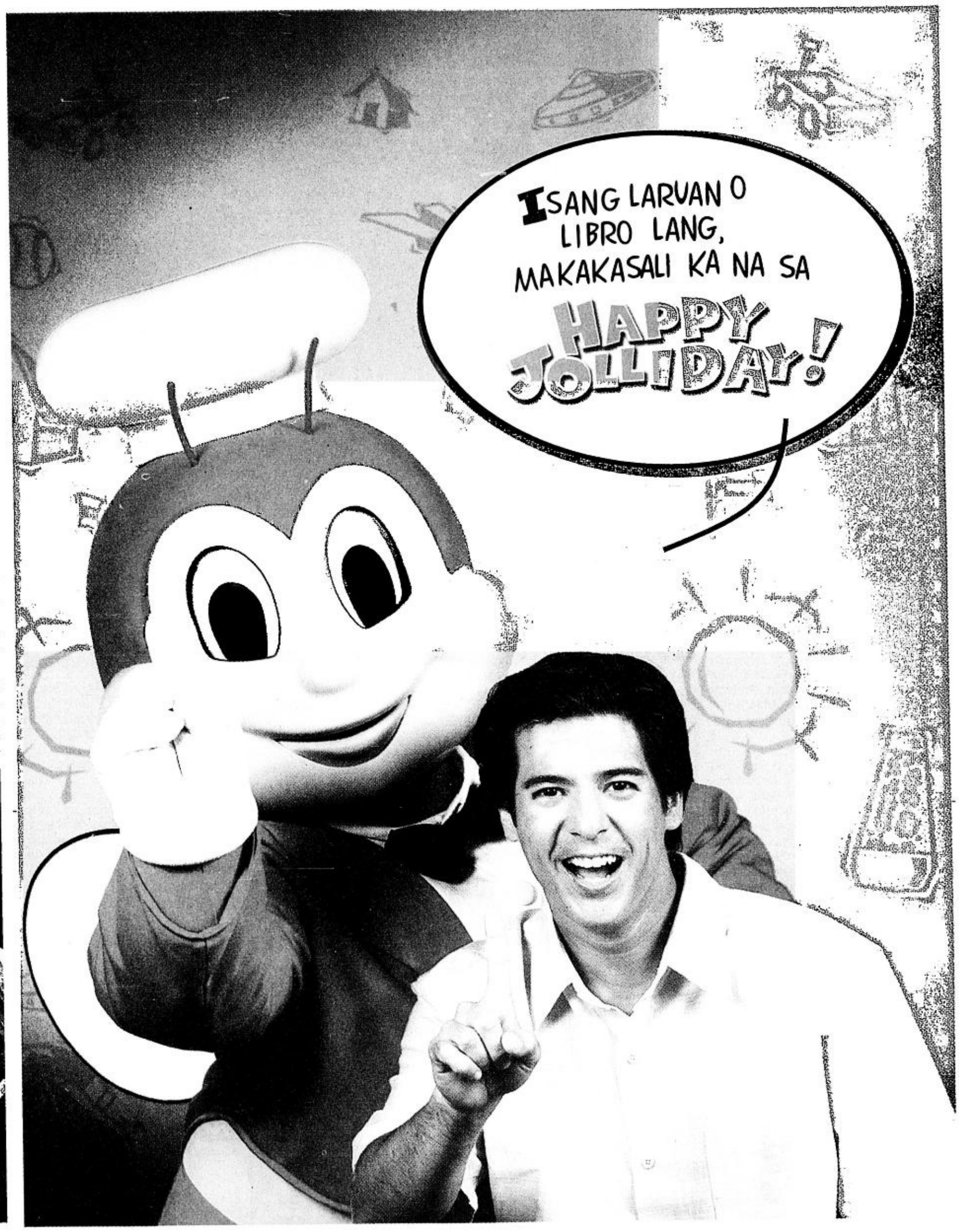
The oldest piece is titled "Fulfillment," which is dated 1953. The most recent is of 2002 vintage, a scooped-out bench of fine narra wood. The most expensive has a cool P1.6 million tag price and goes by the title of "Please Sit Pretty Close to Me." It is a narra sofa with a nude figure. Nap Abueva sat on it, and the Plaza's PR manager **Aissa de la Cruz** did get pretty close to him for a picture.

Aissa has been instrumental in setting up this art gallery at the hotel, which will be an apt venue for local artists and visiting art exhibits. Curator/consultant is UP Cebu professor **Raymund Fernandez**.

The Abueva one-man show is ongoing until Nov. 26. Students should see the many Abueva art pieces at Cebu Plaza Hotel. The next event at the Plaza is a Mexican Food Fest scheduled on Dec. 13-22, with two guest chefs from Mexico—**Sergio Snyder** and **Roberto Treves**.

SHANGRI-LA Mactan's executive chef Stefan Mueller and general manager Desmond Hatton

NATIONAL Artist Napoleon Abueva and Aissa de la Cruz cuddle up on an art piece aptly titled "Please Sit Pretty Close to Me."



MILLIE Sembrano

MARGOT Osmeña with "Fulfillment," made by Napoleon Abueva in 1953

Ngayong Pasko, may pagkakataon ka nang makatulong sa mga batang nangangailangan, may katuwaan pang nakalaan para sa iyo! For every toy or book you donate, you get 3 stubs to the MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee Happy Jolliday. The more donations you bring, the more stubs you get for these fun activities: photo booth, face painting, inflatable playground, puppet show, and more! Get a chance to see Tito Aga Muhlach and Jollibee, too!

See you on November 17, 2002 at the Glorietta Activity Center!

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

10 am - Maaga ang Pasko sa Jollibee Happpy Jolliday Opening of Fun Booths

2:30 - 4:00 pm - Start of Kiddie Activities: crafts making, puppet show, storytelling session, face painting, mall parade

4:00 - 5:00 pm - Program

5:00 - 7:00 pm - Kiddie Games

Department of Social Welfare and Development

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA

MaAga ang Pasko

Jollibee

IKA-8 TAON

A lungful of free air, a vas

Wellness weekend at The Farm

Text by Lynett A. Villariba
Photos by Mike Alquinto

LYNETT VILLARIBA

SCENE at The Farm: Black swans and a man meditating by the lagoon

In Lipa, Batangas, is a health resort that unifies the scattered modes of the natural movement—natural nutrition, spa de-stressing, and meditation

THERE is a farm at a little barangay in Lipa, Batangas, where one can breathe more freely, where the greens sustain personal health and where water that springs from underneath a volcanic mountain is healing. It is an idyllic haven sheltered from noise and pollution by a green canopy of coconut trees and a lush landscape of flowing water and garden walks designed to enhance optimum wellness.

This is not your typical farm where animals are raised for food. What is raised on The Farm at San Benito is the level of health consciousness, and what is cultivated is a change in outlook. It is a realization that regaining or improving health is possible, and that natural methods are effective in restoring balance and vitality.

If good health is the birthright of every human being, why do we seem to have such a difficult time claiming this most precious gift? The Farm exists to help all who have asked that question claim what is rightfully theirs, regardless of social status, spiritual orientation or health condition.

Hippocrates' way

Reputed to be the "Hippocrates Health Resort of Asia," The Farm builds on work begun centuries ago by the Father of Medicine, who taught the world how to stay healthy by following the ancient wisdom of natural law: "Let food be your medicine and medicine your food." By restoring the body to homeostasis, or a balance within natural law, it is possible to regain health through natural holistic methods by which the body, being the miraculous organism it is, can heal itself.

The health resort provides a venue for wellness-seekers who wish to explore all facets of mind-body medicine. Guests are offered options in wellness, utilizing natural, non-invasive treatments by integrating an 85-percent raw-food diet, nutrition education, detoxification, exercise and spiritual development programs, non-chemical nutritional supplements, and spa treatments—from therapeutic, Thai and stone massage to reflexology. A medical staff supervises all programs, offering consultations to visitors and long-term guests alike.

The health resort to-do list gives options we have not thought we could have, living as we do in a toxic environment—where the air we breathe is polluted, the food we eat is processed, cured, embalmed, chemicalized (even radiated) and devitalized, and the noise we hear have deafened our sense of well-being. It is enough to make us want to get out of our toxic cocoon and gasp for a lungful of free air at The Farm.

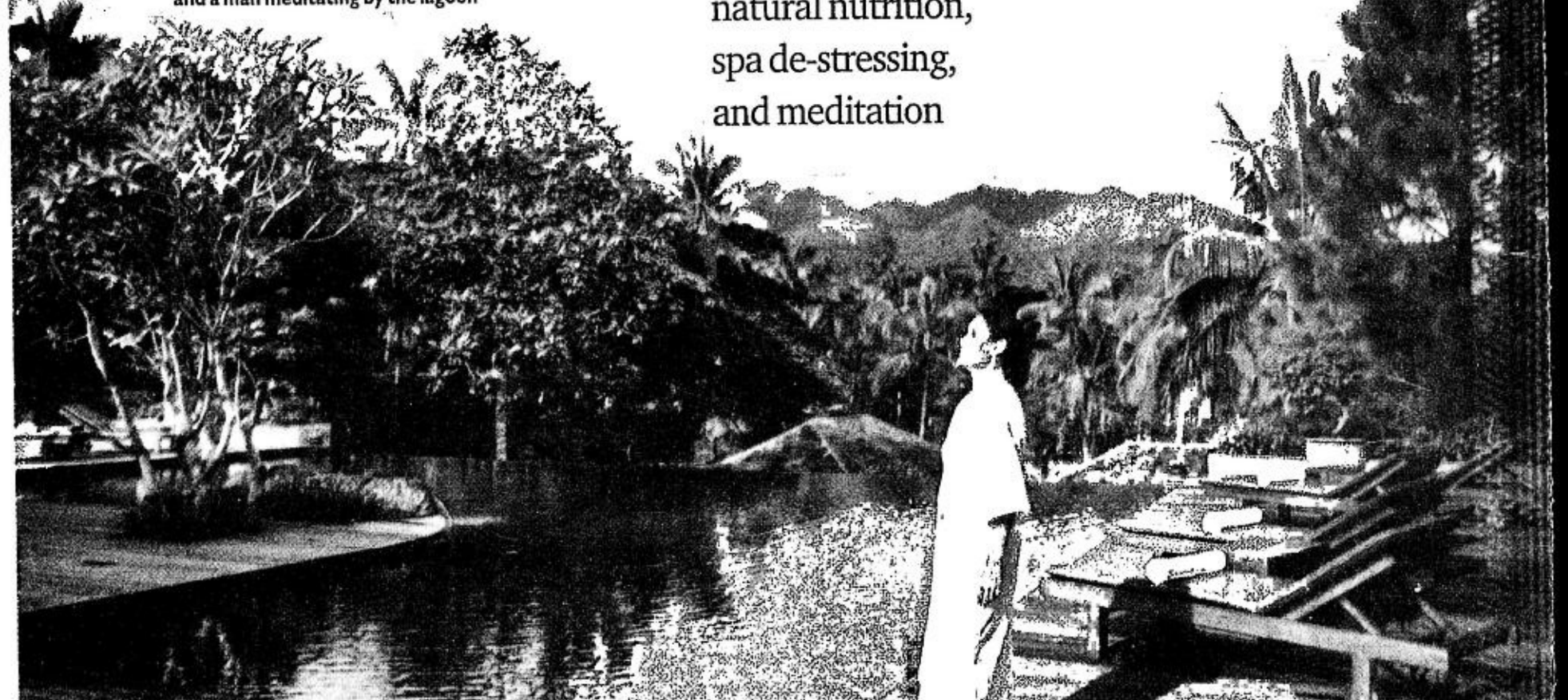
While the resort is a luxurious oasis, it is geared solely for optimum wellness. It is more than a health spa or fitness facility. It is more of a healing retreat where the top of creation—a human being empowered with a discriminating mind and an evolving soul—is able to reclaim his well-being.

Living food diet

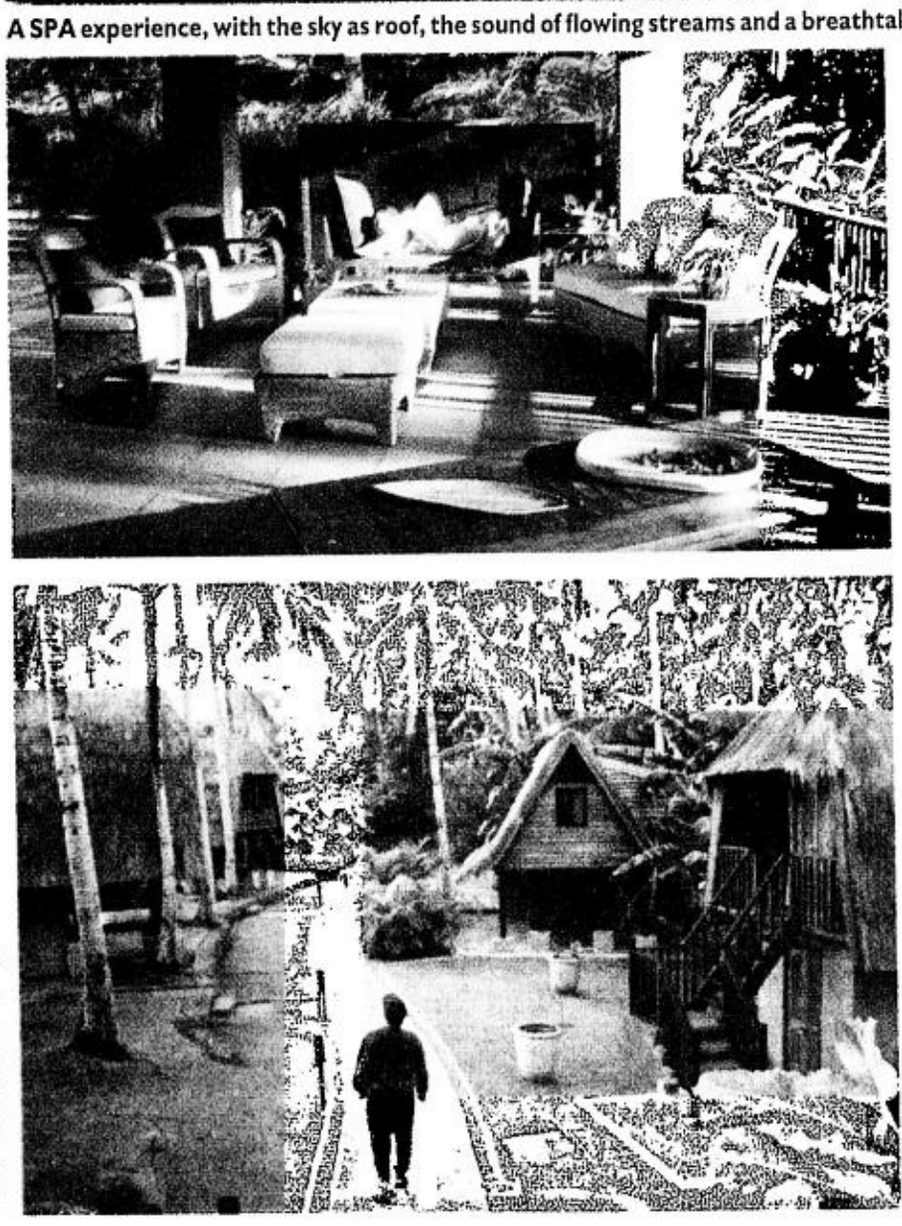
The healing journey commences with a culinary adventure through The Farm's 85/15 Gourmet Restaurant, where the numbers refer to the proportion of raw to cooked foods it maintains. The reason [plant] food is not heated over 40 degrees centigrade is to maintain the enzymes, essential elements needed for digestion and assimilation of nutrients. It also preserves the living energy—known in Chinese as *chi* or in Ayurveda as *prana*—that sustains health. It is a health option that says man need not subsist on the toxic flesh of lower animals for food.

The real surprise is that with this proportion, the chef can create an array of delicious dishes blessed with the vibrant colors and flavors of nature. Blending, dehydrating and gently warming the food, the chefs whip up meals that not only satisfy from a gastronomic and culinary perspective, but nutritionally as well. This includes special healing and detox menus to fit diet programs.

A typical day starts with a delicious breakfast of natural nut and seed cereals and milks (made out of nuts), fresh fruits and tropical drinks, to a five-course lunch and dinner, as well as catered buffets for the most sophisticated palate. Soups are served warm, as are most main entrées, to help wellness seekers in the transition from cooked food to the vegetarian living food diet.



A SPA experience, with the sky as roof, the sound of flowing streams and a breathtaking view



BUCOLIC morning at the Master Villa finds a well-rested body drenched in Vitamin D.

MAN lost in Sulu Village paradise.

LYNETT VILLARIBA

TAKING a dip in a heated pool at the secret garden is a rejuvenating experience.

It is so filling that one of the most frequent comments heard about the evolution of this diet is, "I can't believe it's raw!" After just a few days on the diet, you'll come out of it feeling lighter (and it is not just your weight), more clear-headed and energized, enough to give you an inspiration for making health-enhancing changes. It can even be habit-forming as your body starts craving for what it sorely needs.

Optimum wellness

Soft-launched in June, The Farm has accorded guests in various health conditions—from the fitness buff to the health-challenged—a strong push toward the natural way of regaining, if not preserving, health.

A day at The Farm lets you taste the nourishing food, feel the healing touch of trained hands, swim in infinity pools of natural springs, and stroll around the sprawling grounds. You'll want to stay overnight to dine under the stars or catch the morning mist.

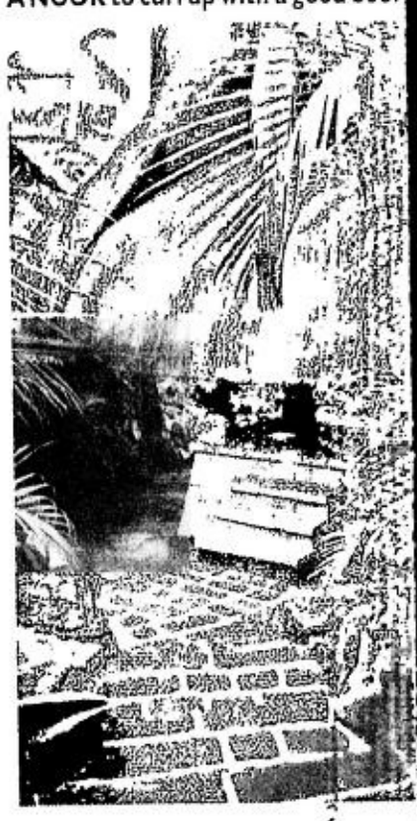
For those who find themselves in extreme medical situations, the medical staff can create healing programs, from a weekend detoxification to juice fasting, to a three-week extended stay, or even longer.

Either way, it is a sensuous experience as you create your own path to wellness. You begin to see the eloquence of nature's beauty. You smell the flowers and fragrances of life. You listen to the stillness or the sound of the wind and rushing water. You touch the blades of cool grass, the power of a rock or the daintiness of a flower. You taste the food that is a gift of nature, its healing colors, texture and vibrant energy.

And the spa experience is as what it says in its original Latin root—*salus per aqua*—healing through water. To revitalize your body, mind and spirit, you fill up with or take a dip in natural healing mineral waters doused from the earth's bowels. Your body and mind relax and rejuvenate in good hands, inside well-appointed aromatic rooms that open up to pocket gardens and water fountains, or outdoor beside an infinity pool that extends to the mountain view.

At the end of a day, you earn a well-deserved bliss as healing hands massage your head and feet, while you lie on a poolside chaise lounge at night by candlelight under a canopy of stars. The rest of

A NOOK to curl up with a good book



A NOOK to sit in while meditating

expanse of greenery and magic maountain, tranquil reflection on a lagoon

The world can go hang as it awaits your transformation into a rejuvenated, productive citizen or family person.

The promenade through the 9-ha grounds offers panoramic mountain vistas, flowing waters, garden walks leading to cozy gazebos for group bonding and solitary meditation nooks. You can curl up to a good book at the library amidst a tranquil pool or take a dip in the warmed natural springs waterfall in a secluded garden.

The attention to architectural detail throughout the facility completes the ambiance of splendor and tranquility in tropical paradise. Fresh tropical flowers are everywhere in evidence. Thai silk in soothing jewel tones dress up the rooms. Balinese carvings accent the walls and gateways. A typical bamboo bridge is Japanese in character. The tropical huts are definitely Philippine.

Accommodation range from rustic, charming thatched cottages, to villas with open-sky showers, to a luxurious master suite with a hillside wall of lush greenery. You will forget that you were ever health-challenged.

A convergence

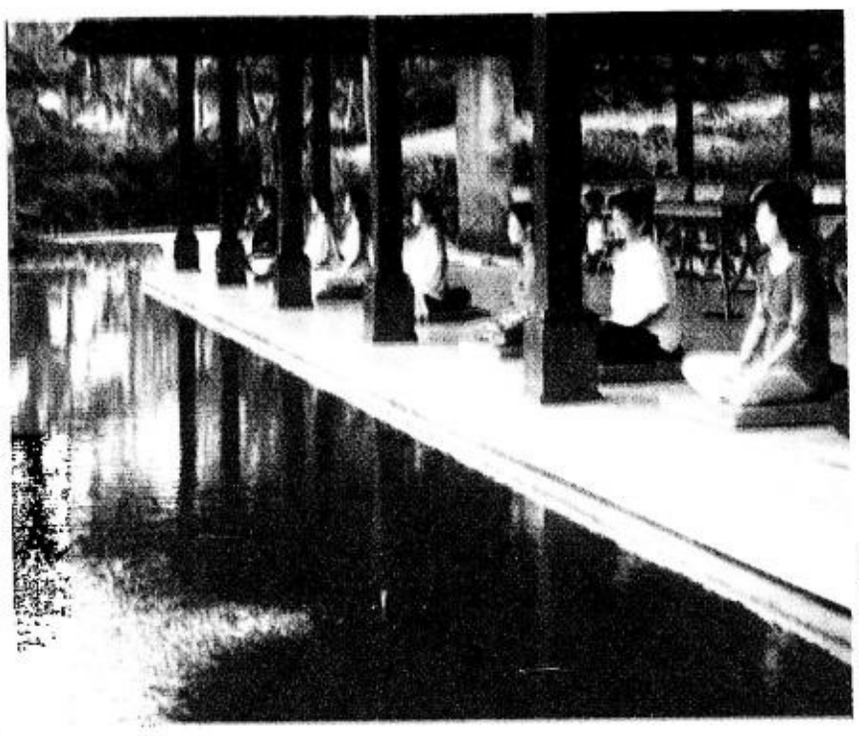
During its two-and-a half years of development, The Farm drew interesting allies.

French doctor of naturopathy and noted aromatherapist Nelly Grosjean, whose Museum of Aromatherapy in Provence, France, is the only one of its kind in the world, is a regular visitor and consultant. She is helping to develop the Farm's own line of natural therapeutic plant essences and oils. She compares The Farm's "magical" qualities and healing ambiance to the best of the healing retreats and spas in America and Europe.

Victoras Kulvinskas, who together with Dr. Ann Wigmore pioneered the concept of living foods in the United States and started the Hippocrates Health Institute in Boston, assisted The Farm with a start-up program last May and will return to conduct future seminars. Kulvinskas is the author of the raw foods lifestyle book "Surviving the 21st Century."

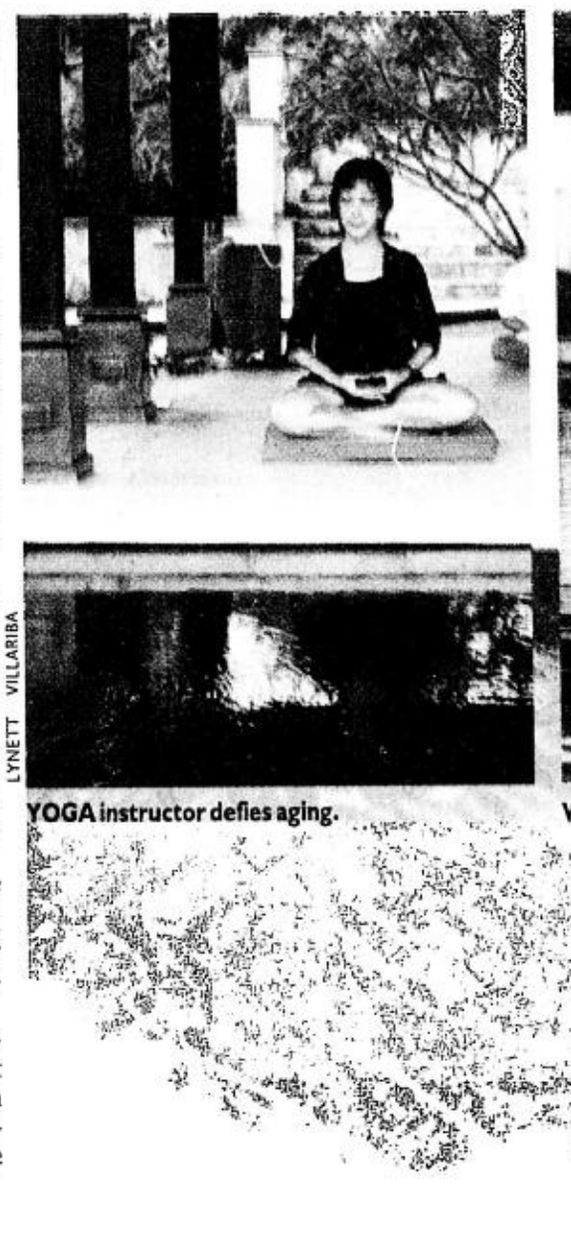
David Wolfe, considered as one of the world's leading figures on natural nutrition, will give a self-help seminar on Nov. 24, 25 and 26, based on his latest book, "Eating for Beauty."

Chef Chad Sarno, the master chef behind the famous Roxanne's restaurant in San Francisco, will teach the kitchen staff the most nourishing elegant gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner for the restaurant.



LYNETT VILLARIBA

TRANQUIL morning at the amphitheater finds guests and staff meditating as one.



YOGA instructor defies aging.

WORSHIPPING the sun at the spa

LYNETT VILLARIBA

Reaching out

The vision held by the Farm's founder, entrepreneur Eckard Rempe, his wife Perla and their staff, is a lofty one: to raise the level of awareness for natural healing methods not only in Asia, but throughout the world.

Hopefully, the Hippocrates Health Resort of Asia will be the first step in a master plan of reaching out to the rest of the world with information on natural healing possibilities. "Education, research studies and nutritional programs in the barrios are part of our vision," explains Eckard. "The Farm is only the beginning."

Visiting Swiss medical research consultant Dr. Cyril Gacond has started the groundwork for an extensive scientific study on the efficiency of raw food nutrition in the treatment of different illnesses, including tumors, as experienced in the Philippine facility.

"When all else fails," resident doctor and local integrative medicine pioneer Bernadette Martinez, M.D. emphasizes, "what we present is an option that is closer to Natural or Divine Law. We offer hope instead of despair, a chance to discover the individual's own self-healing potential."

To learn more about The Farm at San Benito, log on to www.TheFarm.com. ph. For reservations, call Metro Manila, (02) 776-2281 to 85, and Lipa, (043) 757-2951.

A MEDLEY of fruits with nut and fruit musslee

COLORFUL living food: Squash Provencale

ASSORTED fruit jerkys and mango-banana slush

LYNETT VILLARIBA

Fine dining at the 85/15 Gourmet Restaurant

DAVID WOLFE AND CHEF CHAD SARNO

Food for thought and health

THE FARM has invited one of the world's foremost authorities on natural nutrition, book author-lecturer David Wolfe, to give a self-help seminar based on his latest book, "Eating for Beauty," on Nov. 24, 25 and 26. He will stay until the 29th.

Chef Chad Sarno, the master chef behind Roxanne's, the famous healthy gourmet restaurant in San Francisco patronized by celebrities, and Vitalities resort in Hawaii, will prepare a most nourishing, elegant breakfast, lunch and dinner to complement the seminar.

Wolfe speaks from a rich experience—growing up with medical doctors as parents, getting his engineering and law degrees from Oxford University and the University of San Diego, and writing and lecturing out of his California office, Nature's First Law.

A seminar day at The Farm begins at 9 a.m. as Wolfe blends humor, wisdom, personal experience and research into an entertaining and motivating presentation to help wellness seekers create a new paradigm for health, happiness and success.

The seminar breaks up to digest life-changing concepts through a food preparation demonstration capped with a nourishing lunch created by Chef Chad.

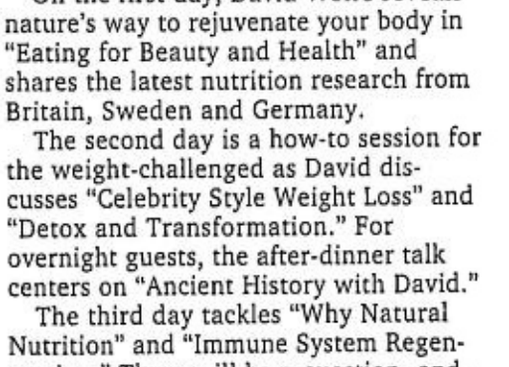
On the first day, David Wolfe reveals nature's way to rejuvenate your body in "Eating for Beauty and Health" and shares the latest nutrition research from Britain, Sweden and Germany.

The second day is a how-to session for the weight-challenged as David discusses "Celebrity Style Weight Loss" and "Detox and Transformation." For overnight guests, the after-dinner talk centers on "Ancient History with David."

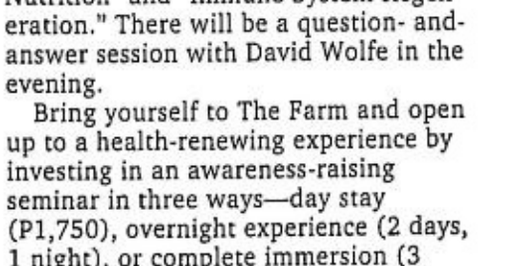
The third day tackles "Why Natural Nutrition" and "Immune System Regeneration." There will be a question- and-answer session with David Wolfe in the evening.

Bring yourself to The Farm and open up to a health-renewing experience by investing in an awareness-raising seminar in three ways—day stay (P1,750), overnight experience (2 days, 1 night), or complete immersion (3 days, 2 nights). Stay on and avail of special package for eight spa treatments from the menu.

Call the seminar organizers Katharine Clark at (0916) 460-3002 or Perla Rempe at (0917) 536-8312.



DEHYDRATED coconut fritters with pesto dip



DELIGHTFUL 15-percent cooked entrée

LYNETT VILLARIBA

AN OLD mango tree sits as a silent witness to the mystique of a picnic place.

Special PROJECT

Unveiling Maritina

It would be a flagrant injustice to dub Maritina Romulo a woman for all seasons in our tropical country since there are sadly only two. And chances are she wouldn't be over the moon to be associated with the words 'dry' and 'rainy' either. To give you an idea of how immersed she is in the global loop, Maritina recently returned from a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. She accompanied her father, who is Senior Adviser to President Arroyo to this year's APEC summit where she walked the same ground as 21 world leaders did too, including President George W. Bush. Having said that, let's take a closer look at how this inimitable smart flygirl does it all.

Maritina is the youngest daughter of effervescent Roberto R. Romulo, diplomat. She is an accomplished stage artiste, dancer, certified fitness trainer and print and commercial model in her own right. She took up modern ballet in Steps on Broadway of New York and has modeled for major brands for TV commercials. Just take one look at her impressive resumé and you'll get the picture. As one might expect she is also the consummate communicator. Her choice of tools and equipment to do her work and daily tasks efficiently, her fashion picks and her whole lifestyle revolve around getting and receiving the right message on time. All this she has to do on the run. This way of living therefore requires a mobile device, a damn good one.

She has been a loyal Smart subscriber since 1996—the year she returned to the country after completing her college years abroad. Having lived and studied in no less than six countries around the world, Maritina is about as well-traveled and cultured as one can get without acquiring the slightest trace of snootiness other privileged A-listers tend to develop. Fluent in four languages, she exudes a certain je ne sais quoi charisma which probably owes to her multi-cultural international living experiences in the US, Spain, Belgium, France and Thailand.

Now based in Manila, she has decided to focus on yet another one of her passions: Pilates. More demanding than other forms of drills, Pilates, a fusion of western and eastern philosophies, teaches you about breathing with movement, body mechanics, balance, coordination, spatial awareness, strength and flexibility. In fact, Maritina has her own Pilates studio in Manila and plays guru to the growing number of followers the exercise has inspired. "Pilates and yoga share similar goals, with emphasis on stretching as well as strengthening of muscles. Like yoga, Pilates focuses on finding one's center", she explains. After all, she did attend Pilates sessions in both Hong Kong and New York giving her the know-how and experience needed to share this precise workout over here.

If by now you're thinking wait, I think I know her, then you've probably seen her in one of her many appearances in Repertory Philippines. With a stage career featuring roles in Evita, My Fair Lady and South Pacific (to name a few), Maritina hugged the spotlights on the Philippine theatre through strong, solid performances. Clearly a disciplined thespian, Maritina's acting skills were honed at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute, Stella Adler Conservatory and New York University, all these in the Big Apple. (Which is why I love New York is her other avowed statement, the first is I was born to dance.) Keen to share her craft with young aspiring Filipino actors, she signed on as high school acting teacher at Colegio de San Agustin in Makati. She then went on to co-produce for Act Now Corp.'s International Filipino Cultural shows in Hong Kong and Sydney, Australia.

When she's not busy with Pilates or theater, Maritina enjoys spending quality time with her fiancé, a charming hotelier with a personality to suit this red hot soon-to-be-wed singleton. Naturally, there are times when they can't be together and they have to rely on their celfones to keep in touch. "Last June, he went to Japan to catch the FIFA World Cup. I had to stay behind because of so many comittments. But I had no problems calling him using Smart IDD", she declares. With Maritina's Smart Elite Plan 3500, she has an incredible 650 free text message allocation and up to 750 free minutes of airtime for her voice calls. She adds, "I was in Bangkok during the final between Brazil and Germany. Thanks to the international roaming capabilities of Smart, I was able to keep in touch with friends in Manila through SMS, and even with my Bangkok-based cousins who are on Thai networks." "The SMS feature of Smart is really da bomb" Maritina offers: "During the UAAP final between Ateneo and La Salle, I gave my friend in Jakarta a blow by blow account of the score line through text. She must have been the first in Jakarta to know that Ateneo were the 2002 champs!" "And if it's a tangible incentive you're looking for" she excitedly shares "you actually get all the latest sexy phones absolutely free just by signing up".

Speaking of fiancé, wedding plans are well underway for a January march to the altar. "I rely entirely on my celfone when making all the arrangements. From ordering the flowers to hammering out details with my wedding coordinator, my celfone is my secretary.

Now that we've unveiled Maritina the Pilates guru, Maritina the theater actor and Maritina the jazz dancer, it's now in the hands of one very lucky guy to unveil Maritina as no one has done before. Indeed, a simply amazing bride she will be.

By: Jose Cruz

Credits:

All photographs shot in The Shangri-La Hotel, Makati
Hair and make-up: Ryan Pugliatty of Hair Bytes, Shangri-La Mall
Photography: Eddie Boy Escudero
Thank you Joy Wassmer, Communications Director of The Shangri-La Hotel, Makati

Advt.

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE AWARDEES. Tina Ocampo, Neriza Mathay, Margarita Forés, Vicky Zubiri, Rina Ortiz and Nina Huang

RICHARD and Lucy Gomez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Joe Salazar

Slick night of tittle-tattle

IMELDA Marcos

From page E1

Forés.

Stephanie Zubiri, Vicky's daughter, was chosen as the Most Promising Debutant. She couldn't have been a more perfect choice since that very night Stephanie marked her 18th birthday.

The Most Eligible Bachelor Award was bestowed on Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of Tarlac. He was so named not only for his social status, but also for his personal values, public service, and a reputation for integrity that complement his father's, the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino.

The Style Icon Award went to Maria "Baby" Araneta-Fores. The Tatler has declared her look "Timeless" in this month's cover story. Baby's daughter, Margarita Forés, received the award.

The next award was also one of the most applauded. For who does not love Gina Lopez? A clearly emotional Gina could not hide her delight at receiving the Most Charitable Force Award. She happily accepted a donation from the Philippine Tatler for the ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan Project to save the La Mesa watershed.

The Patroness of the Arts Award was given to Zenaida "Nedy" Tantoco. The Tatler said her unflagging support for the arts and culture has helped put Filipino talent and creativity on the world map.

The penultimate honor of the evening was the Pinnacle of Society Award, given to the person whose exemplary achievement in business, society, arts and culture, philanthropy or government has made him or her a social force to be reckoned with. Two women received the award: Mary Prieto and Chito Madrigal Collantes.

To close the night, the Most Distinguished Gentleman Award was given to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

After the awards, high style grooved on the dance floor as Sabor Latino provided uptempo beats. The party lasted until the morning. It was indeed a night of style and substance, the mix the magazine is earning a well-deserved reputation for. We just can't wait for the next Philippine Tatler Ball.

ANDY and Vicky Soriano

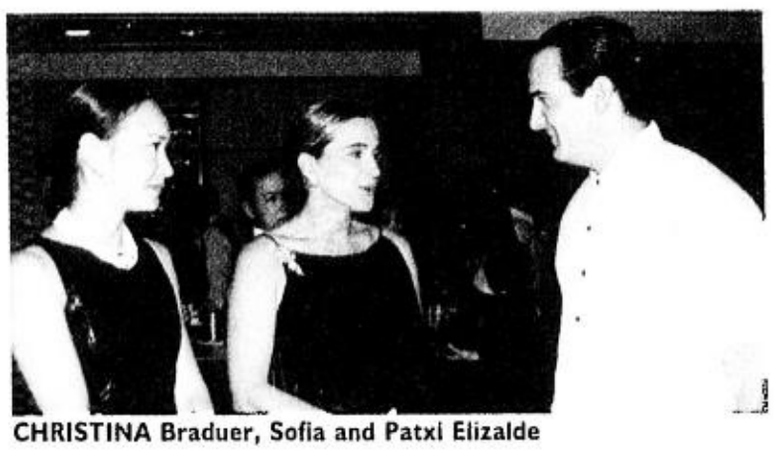
PINNACLE Awardee Chito Madrigal Collantes flanked by Regional Tatler Publisher and editor in chief Lina Ross and Irene Francisco

JOHN and Kathy Weir

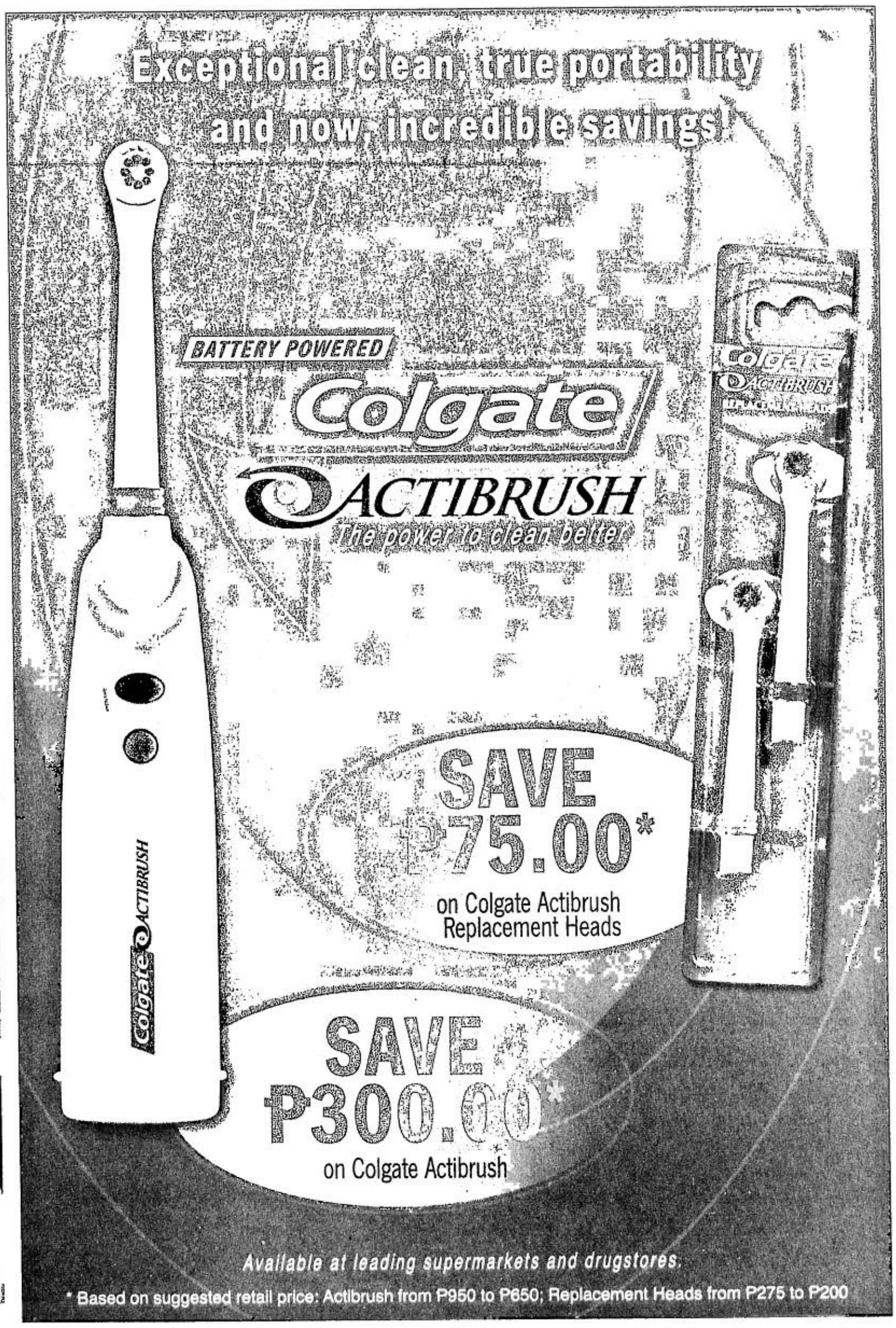
ANDY and Vicky Soriano

JAIME Laya, Mercy Tuason and Ching Montinola

JOSIE Lichauco, Michel and Amparito Lihuilier



CHRISTINA Braduer, Sofia and Patxi Elizalde



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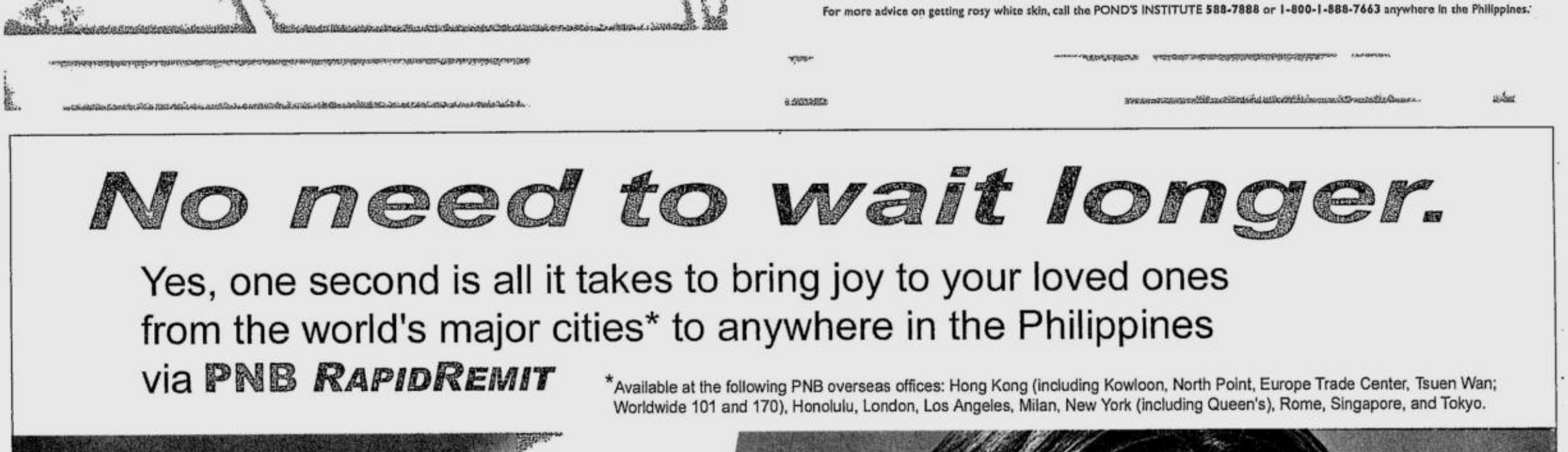

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

ONE big Hapee and Blue family... Ateneo players, athletic director and coaching staff, and supporters

PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Rings for the Blue Eagles

By Alex C. Paita

THE ATENEO de Manila community once again savored its UAAP basketball championship with the Ring Ceremony at the Loyola Heights campus Grade School Auditorium recently. Families and friends of the Blue Eagles, along with AdMU faculty, staff, alumni and other guests of honor, graced the event, which doubled as an appreciation dinner for sponsors Manny Pangilinan, Cecilio Pedro, Tony Boy Cojuangco and Pioneer Insurance.

The buffet table had nearly vanished into thin air, but the Eagles, it seemed, were hungry—for merrymaking. After all, Ateneo waited for 14 years to have another basketball championship.

Host for the night was broadcaster Sev Sarmienta, an Atenean himself who, admittedly, though inadvertently, jumbled the program's sequence. The program went smooth as an eagle's flight, though, so there's little wonder Fr. Tito Caluag, SJ, the program coordinator, just kept silent and smiled through and through.

Along with non-Atenean members of the Ateneo-Pioneer team in the Philippine Basketball League, the Blue Eagles and their coaching staff led by Joel Banal were awarded with championship rings and plaques. As in a commencement exercise, the parents of the players went on stage and joined them in accepting the awards. The rings, said Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ in the welcome address read in his absence, symbolized commitment and "the power to do good." Later, the players gave Pangilinan and the rest of the sponsors Ateneo basketball jerseys as an expression of the team's gratitude.

Stunning Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski (who came with husband Dodot), herself a proud Ateneo alumnus, also went on stage to accept her special trophy in recognition of her equestrian silver and gold medals in the Asian games. Silver medallist for men's bowling Christian Suarez also received special recognition.

Landed

The Blue Eagles have made this year's UAAP season one of the most colorful events not only in the history of collegiate basketball but Philippine sports as a whole. And "transformation" is the appropriate word, as the Hail Mary boys regained the championship trophy only after 14 prayerful years, turning fans into fanatics and themselves, "big" boys, into big-time men. For the most part,

RINGS/ p.F3

EQUESTRIAN. Ateneo alumnus Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski is honored for her gold-winning performance at the recent Asian games.

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In support of the 4th World Meeting of Families

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Join us on Nov. 16 at 6 pm at Ayala Center Cebu, and Nov. 17 at 4:30 pm at Ayala Center Makati or 4 pm at Alabang Town Center, as we begin this blessed season. Come for a Eucharistic Celebration, a Lantern Parade, a Fireworks and Laser Show, and the launch of "He Came Upon a Manger: An Angel's Musical Tale" -- lyrics by Moy Ortiz and Edith Gallardo, and music by Ryan Cayabyab.

Watching Mikee

PRECIOUS AS GOLD. Who is she?—No more, as the whole country knows her and the good news Swatch lady Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski has found her way with the latest Wayfarer Swatch Daiphane Navigator.

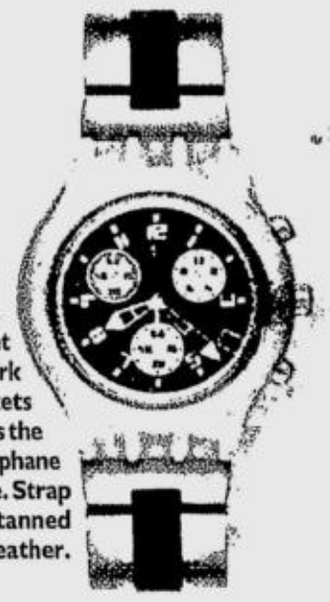
SWATCH Lady Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski brings Christmas cheer from the only store where Christmas lives—Gift Gate.

Swatch offers three new collections this season with designs that continue to offer a realistic look for those who enjoy an edge one step above the trends.

There are those that are born to privilege, who live a life of opulence and whose every wish is regarded as a command with a slight nod in the right direction. But, are they really happy? Swatch Nabab provokes this world. Instead of tracking the trading board, invest in your sense of humor. Soar and gain points on the daily market—the daily fashion quota market, that is. At the end of the day when you tally up points, no doubt you'll come out a winner with Swatch Turnover. And Swatch continues its innovation as it astounds the contradictory worlds of art and technology with an Irony design worthy of applause—the 2002 Swatch Irony Diaphane Family. Swatch Diaphane Chrono: The exquisiteness of nature—the air, the earth and its interior design—continuously altering landscapes; the irony of it... the beauty of diversity, most unexpected.

These three new collections are knocking at your door with P500 off when you join the Switch-to-Swatch Promo. Trade-in any old watch at all Gift Gate, Swatch stores and Kiosks and get P500 on your Swatch watch purchase. Nothing says good news better than a great discount from Swatch.

THE LATEST Swatch James Bond Collection, "On her Majesty's Secret Service," Swatch Irony Nabab



MATT stainless steel link bracelet accented with dark blue rubber plackets makes the Thunderstorm Diaphane Chrono a must-have. Strap also available in tanned yellow leather.

MIKEE wears Swatch Invader and holds out Swatch Squaw.

SWATCH Sparkling Night

RELIVE the mystery and glamour of 007 with the latest from the Swatch James Bond Collection "The World is Not Enough," part of the Diaphane Collection.

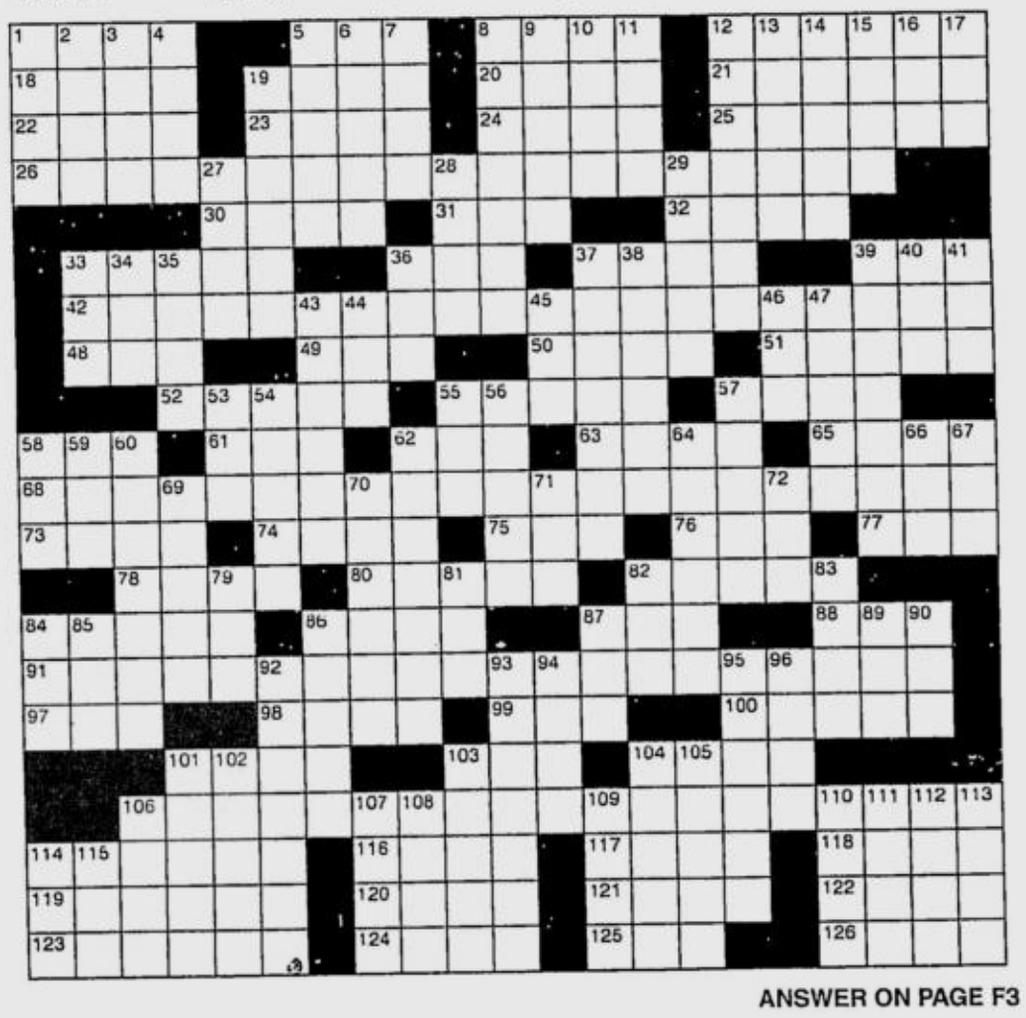
MIKEE has found a new friend in the Russ Christmas Dalmatian plush dog. That's the Swatch Time Slider she has on.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — **THINKING**

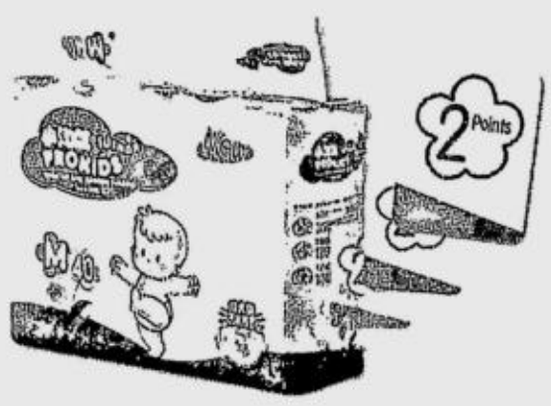
ACROSS
1 Velvety burrower
5 Welcome item?
8 Belfry sound
12 Most rational
18 In the course of
19 Actor Auberjonois
20 Betting setting
21 "Electric —" ('83 hit)
22 Sitarist Shankar
23 TV's "The — of Night"
24 Toast topper
25 Elastic band
26 My doctor told me . . .
30 Chip's chum
31 Made one's mark
32 Cry of disgust
33 Salivate
36 Slangy sib
37 Burn
39 AAA handout
42 My dentist told me . . .
48 Ending for "auction"
49 Pitch in
50 Wrath
51 Stationed
52 It's out of this world
55 Clouts a cad
57 Milk measurement
58 Arthur or Pons
61 Cockpit fig.
62 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
63 Bishop of Rome
65 Summer top
68 My mechanic told me . . .
73 Thousand —, CA
74 Jeremy Fisher, for one
75 Scand. nation
76 — Tome
77 Giovanni or Rickles
78 Rotisserie part
80 Jeeves' profession
82 Sitcom set in Nantucket
84 Shun
86 Quick snack
87 Hold the title
88 "— Gotta Be Me" ('69 hit)
91 My accountant told me . . .
97 Switchboard abbr.
98 Smidgen
99 Med. test
100 Bald bird
101 Cold-war accord
103 Pub order
104 Comic Sahl
106 My son's teacher told me . . .
114 Pester
116 Dickens villain
117 Turgenev's birthplace
118 Screenwriter James
119 Verdi opera
120 Ages
121 "Good gracious!"
122 Liberate
123 "Children should — . . ."
124 Bump
125 Dover's st.
126 Semester

DOWN
1 Shopping center
2 Actor Epps
3 Roman historian
4 Correct a text
5 Olympic award
6 Harmon or Dickinson
7 Rock hound?
8 Claim
9 Sniggled
10 From the top
11 Bow part
12 Southwestern sticker
13 — -garde
14 "Revenge of the —" ('84 film)
15 Middle Earth denizens
16 Author Grafton
17 Dist.
19 Entertain lavishly
27 Bouquet
28 Geometry term
29 Spout like Cicero
33 Turn blue?
34 Caviar
35 Yours and mine
36 Turf
37 Food fish
38 Urges
39 Sandwich spread
40 Sleeve contents?
41 Third degree?
43 Element
44 Speak with a forked tongue
45 Roth —
46 Kimono closer
47 Devilfish
53 Good buddy
54 High up
55 Make a muumuu
56 Singer Cleo
57 Pie nut
58 Jacket info
59 Letter from Athens
60 Invites on a date
62 Henley happening
64 Model's job
66 — Dinh Diem
67 He's a doll
69 "A Dandy in —" ('68 film)
70 Communist council
71 Plant disease
72 Grab all the goodies
79 Ms. Lupino
81 Wahine's wreath
82 1914-18 letters
83 Perform in "Parsifal"
84 Backer
85 — populi
86 Gravy ingredient
87 Assoc.
89 Cubic meas.
90 Lady of the lea
92 "Without You" singer
93 Backslide
94 Got by, with "out"
95 Announce
96 Birmingham bye-bye
101 Marshy lowland
102 Usher's beat
103 Winning
104 Highway sign
105 Ron of "Superfly"
106 Infuriates
107 Impatient interrogative
108 Architect Saarinen
109 — the line (obeyed)
110 Huck's craft
111 Brute
112 — -do-well
113 Appear to be
114 Elf
115 Gobbled up



ANSWER ON PAGE F3

Collect these 2 Points to bag these



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DAVAO #3 M

COACH Joel Banal

Rings for the Blue Eagles

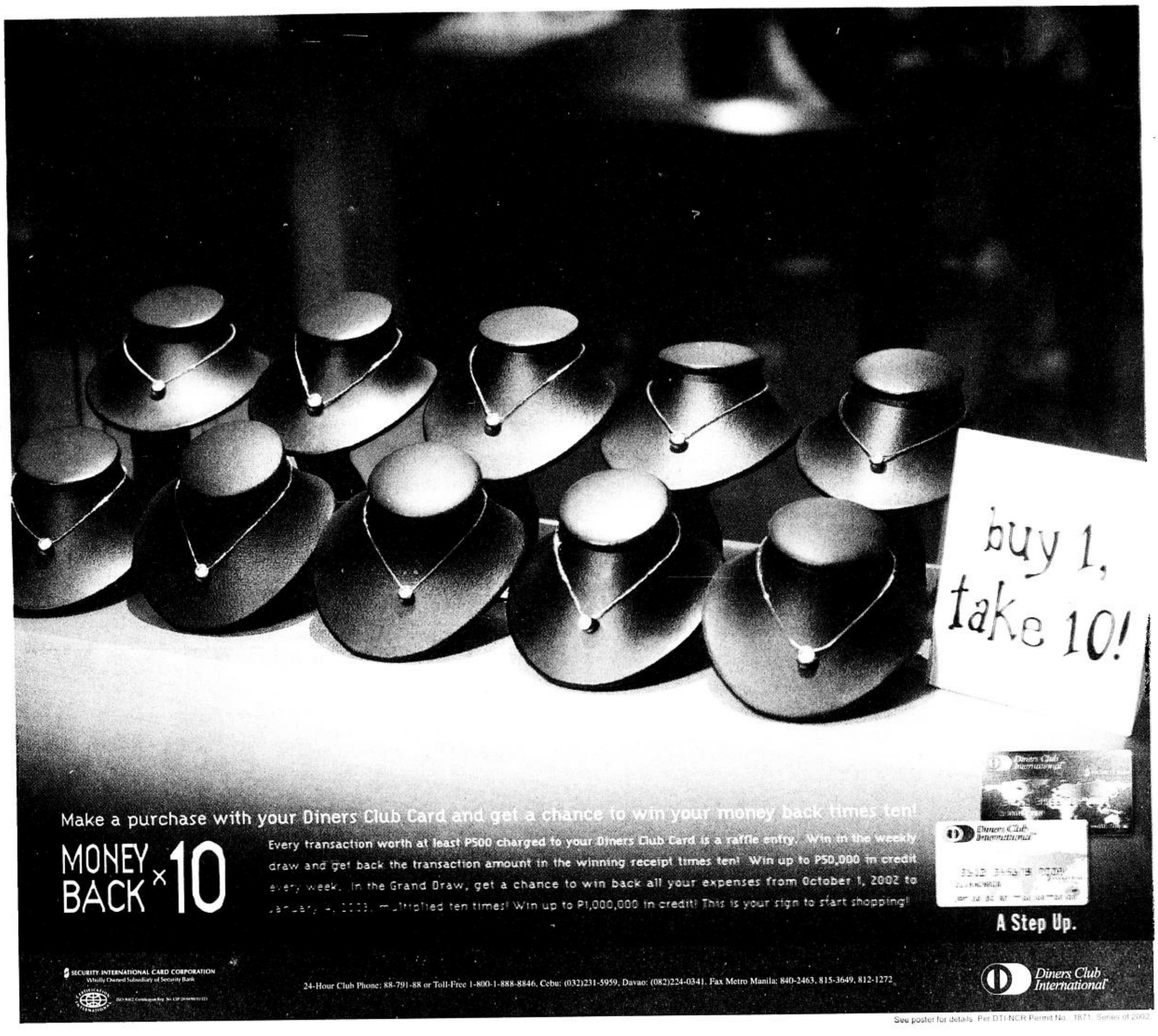
From page F1

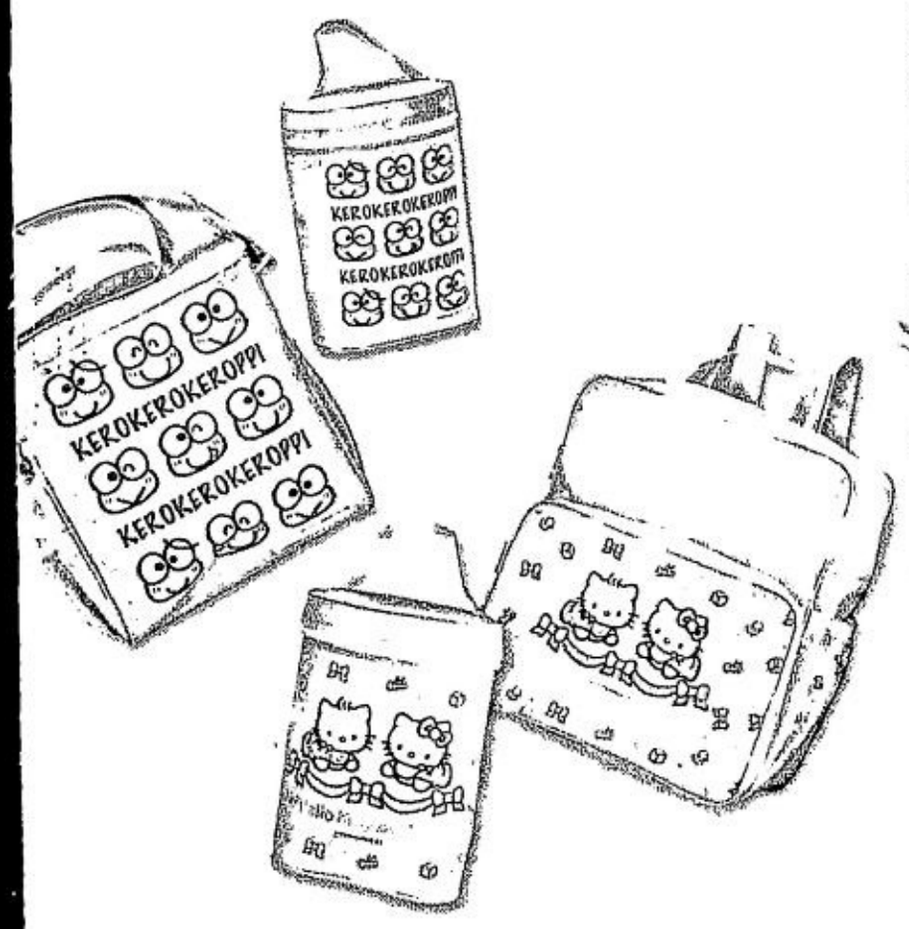
credit goes to the team's maturity and faith, and to Coach Banal and Father Caluag.

In the next UAAP season, fans—and rivals—alike will surely miss Sonny Tadeo, Marco Benitez, Chris Quimpo, Andrew Cruz, Gec Chia and MVP Enrico Villanueva, who are all graduating this year.

But rookies Dominic Banal, Jay Intal, Doug Kramer and Mark Escalona, along with LA Tenorio, Joy del Rosario, JR El Nido, Wesley Gonzales, Larry Fonacier and Rich Alvarez, will be back—with a noble mission.

GEC Chia, Rich Alvarez, Andrew Cruz, Enrico Villanueva Marco Benitez, Larry Fonacier and LA Tenorio





PROKIDS
DISPOSABLE BABY DIAPERS

SANRIO SWAP

MECHANICS:

1. To join, collect points found in Prokids packs.
   Mini Packs / 4s = 1/4 point
   Big Pack = 1 point
   Value Pack = 2 points
2. To claim prize, present corresponding points and required cash outlay per item.
   Hello Kitty Babies Backpack = 8 points + Php 200
   Kerokerokeroppi Shoulder Bag = 8 points + Php 200
   Hello Kitty Babies Bottle Bag = 4 points + Php 80
   Kerokerokeroppi Bottle Bag = 4 points + Php 80
3. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
4. You can join as many times as you want.
5. Promo period is from **September 15 to December 15, 2002.**
6. Gift Gate & Supermarket redemption: every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from October 4 to December 15, 2002.

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Prizes can also be claimed at the redemption booth in the following Gift Gate stores and supermarkets:
Gift Gate Gallery • Gift Gate Greenhills • Gift Gate Alabang Town Center • Gift Gate Harrison Plaza • Gift Gate SM Megamall B • Landmark • Ruslan's Cubao • Ultra Mega Muntinlupa • Citimart Balangas City • Citimart Tanauan • Excel Toms Supermarket, Balangas City • NE Bodega Baliuag, Bulacan • NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan • CSI Dagupan (Lucao) • CSI Baguio • Sunshine Supermart Baguio • Metro Gaisano Ayala • Metro Gaisano Mandaue • Gaisano Mall Davao

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R	A	V	I		E	D	G	E		O	L	E	O	G A R T E R
T	R	Y	T	O	G	A	I	N	A	F	E	W	P	O U N D S
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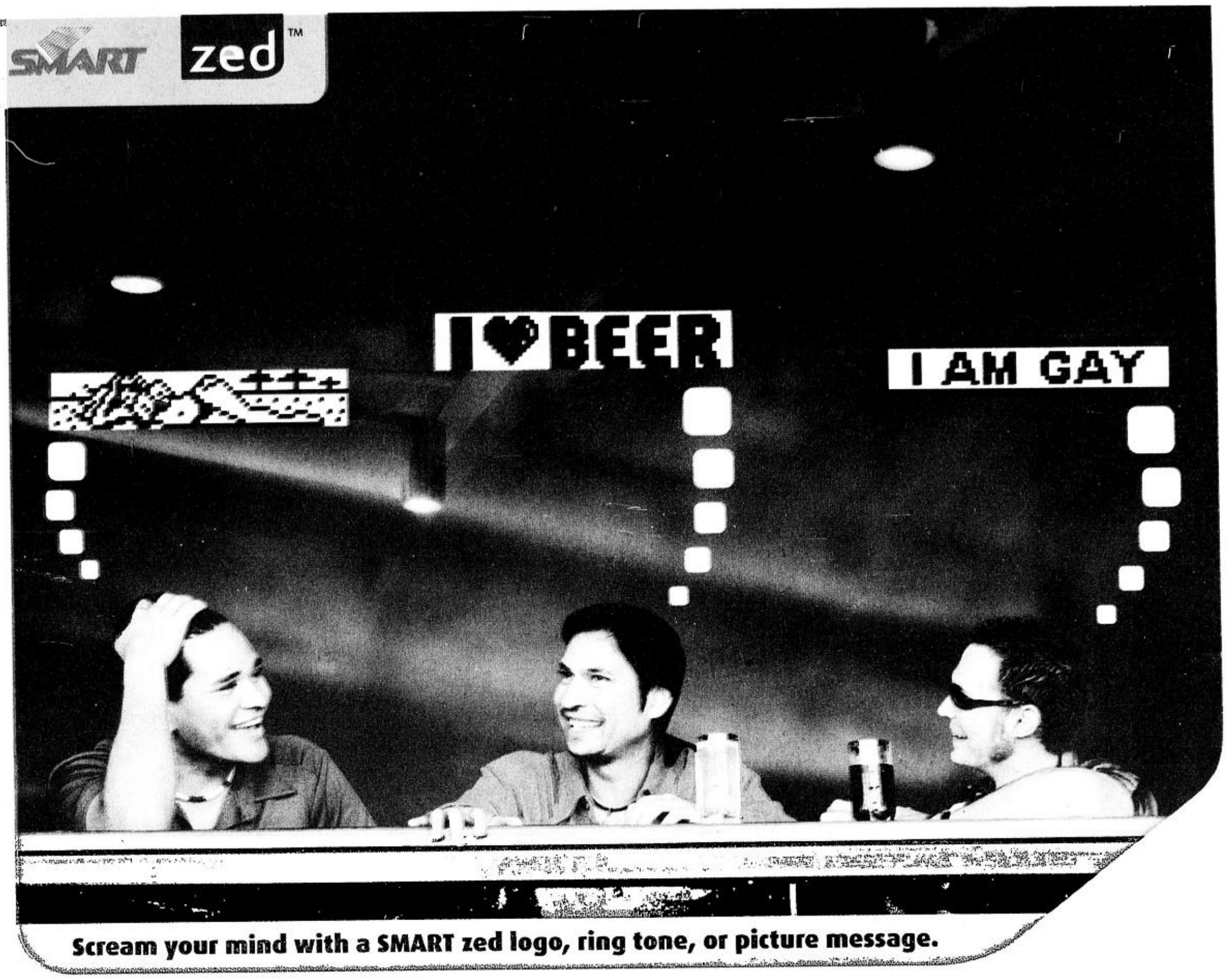
See poster for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1871, Series of 2002.



Scream your mind with a SMART zed logo, ring tone, or picture message.

LOGOS

LOGO FASTCAR1 · LOGO KISS · LOGO FRIENDS · LOGO QUADRI · I AM GAY LOGO GAY · LOGO SUNBABE · LOGO SUNRISE · LOGO 2LOVERS · LOGO BEACHVIEW · LOGO HOLE1
LOGO JESUS · LOGO KISSME4 · LOGO PITBULL · LOGO SEXYEYES2 · LOGO WAZZUP · LOGO 2BEARS · LOGO BUNNYLOVE · LOGO CAT1 · LOGO DOG6 · LOGO DOLPHINS3
LOGO DRAGONF2 · LOGO BEARPEEK1 · LOGO BESTFRENS · LOGO BFLY1 · LOGO BLONDIE1 · LOGO BROTHA · LOGO COUNTER1 · LOGO COUNTER6 · LOGO DATE1 · LOGO ELEPHNT
LOGO F3 · LOGO FEEDME · LOGO FIGURE · LOGO FLOWERS1 · LOGO GUITAR2 · LOGO HIGIRL · LOGO HIGHVOLTAGE · LOGO HORNY · I ♥ BEER LOGO ILOVEBEER · LOGO JINGJANG
LOGO KICKASS1 · LOGO LAUNDRY · LOGO LOVE · LOGO PALE · LOGO PENGUINS3 · LOGO PRTYGRL · LOGO PUPPY2 · LOGO PUPPYLOVE · LOGO RIGHTEYE · LOGO RIZAL
LOGO SMILE · LOGO STUPID · LOGO SUNSMILE1 · LOGO SUPER · LOGO SWEETHEART · LOGO THISSIDEUP · LOGO TRIBAAG1 · LOGO TWINFLOWER1 · LOGO UNIVERSE · LOGO WASTE1

PICTURE MESSAGES

PIC BOTTOMSUP1 · PIC COUNTER2 · PIC DAISYS · PIC FELINE1 · PIC FLOWERS · PIC GOODNITE · PIC HEREYE · PIC HORNY1 · PIC HUGME1 · PIC ILOVEU1
PIC KISSED · PIC KISSED · PIC KISSY1 · PIC LAUGH · PIC LOVELOVE · PIC MESSAGE · PIC MYBUTT · PIC SEXYEYES1 · PIC SLACK1 · PIC WIWI

RING TONES

Another Earthquake *Aaron Carter* **TONE EARTHQUAKE** • To All The Girls *Aaron Carter* **TONE 2ALL** • Summertime *Aaron Carter* **TONE SUMMERTIME2**
My First Ride *Aaron Carter* **TONE MYFIRST** • Do You Remember *Aaron Carter* **TONE DOYOU** • To Good 2 B True *Aaron Carter* **TONE 2GUD2B**
When It Comes To You *Aaron Carter* **TONE WHENIT** • America A O *Aaron Carter* **TONE AMERICA2** • Keep Believing *Aaron Carter* **TONE BELIEVING**
Without You (There'd Be No Me) *Aaron Carter* **TONE WITHOUTU1** • You Get To My Heart *Aaron Carter* **TONE YOUGET2** • Asereje *Las Ketchup* **TONE ASEREJE**
Oye Comó Va *Santana* **TONE OYECOMOVA** • Crazy Rap *Afroman* **TONE CRAZYRAP** • Don't Let Me Get Me *Pink* **TONE GETME**
Just Like A Pill *Pink* **TONE JUSTLIKE** • Shoulda Woulda Coulda *Beverly Knight* **TONE SHOULDA** • Spiderman *Movie Theme* **TONE SPIDERMAN**
Survivor **TONE SURVIVOR** • That's What Friends Are For *Dionne Warwick* **TONE THATSWHA** • A Thousand Miles *Vanessa Carlton* **TONE THOUSAND**
18 Wheeler *Pink* **TONE 18WHEEL** • Family Portrait *Pink* **TONE PORTRAIT** • Misery *Pink* **TONE MISERY** • Seven Years *Norah Jones* **TONE 7YEARS**
Feelin' The Same Way *Norah Jones* **TONE FEELIN** • Come Away With Me *Norah Jones* **TONE COMEAWAY** • Lonestar *Norah Jones* **TONE LONESTAR**
Miss You *Rolling Stones* **TONE MISSYOU** • Shattered *Rolling Stones* **TONE SHATTERED** • Fool to Cry *Rolling Stones* **TONE FOOL2CRY**

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Want the hottest logos or ring tones automatically delivered to your cell phone every week? Subscribe to SMART zed Pick Of The Week! For logos, type POWLOGO and for ring tones type POWTONE, and send to 288. Logos, picture messages & ringtones are supported by selected Nokia handsets. **Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers.** ₱15.00 for every successful download.

To download all these from your SMART Super SIM, simply go to the SMART Menu, select SMART zed and then select My Favorites. Just click on the service you wish to download. It's so easy!

For keywords of other SMART zed services, type in **KEYS** and send to **288**. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (₱1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Cancer
To download your **HOROSCOPE LOGOS**, just send LOGO <zodiac sign> to 288.
Example: **LOGO CANCER**

T
To download your **ANIME HOROSCOPE LOGOS**, just send LOGO <cute + zodiac sign> to 288.
Example: **LOGO CUTEARIES**

www.zed.com

SMART zed to raffle off Aaron Carter CDs.

Fans of teen pop sensation Aaron Carter have a chance to win free copies of his latest CD "Another Earthquake" in SMART zed's Aaron Carter promo.

Carter first burst into the music scene two years ago when his debut album "Aaron's Party" debuted at number four on the Billboard Top 200 album chart.

Since then his energetic singing style and blond good looks have propelled him to international stardom.

His third album, "Another Earthquake" has already spanned the hit single "Summertime", which also features the Baha Men of "Who Let The Dogs Out" fame. SMART zed has joined in the Aaron Carter craze by giving subscribers a chance to get his latest album in line.

Participants only need to download ring tones of either "Summertime" or the soon-to-be smash hit "Keep Believing" and they could win one of 60 CDs from Universal Records.

They can do this by typing **"TONE BELIEVING"** or **"TONE SUMMERTIME2"** and sending to **288** on their SMART or Talk 'N Text cell phones. Each logo costs P15.00.

After downloading, subscribers can join the raffle by registering via text. They do this by typing "AC NAME/ADDRESS/BDAY" and sending to 288 on their SMART or Talk 'N Text cell phones.

Registration is free and only downloaders who register can qualify for the raffle.

The promo runs from November 16 to 17, 2002 with the draw taking place on December 2, 2002 at 1:00 pm at the Sonera zed office on the 27th floor, tower II, Enterprise Bldg., Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City.

Participants can only win once. If in the event that an entry is drawn more than once, another entry will be drawn in its place.

Winners will be informed through a phone call. Lucky participants can claim their prizes by bringing a valid ID to PUBLICIS-DIAMOS 10/F, IBM Plaza Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, No 8 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

Winners have 60 days to claim their prizes from the date of notification. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Sonera zed with prior approval from DTI.

Employees of SMART Communications, Sonera zed as well as non-revenue SMART special subscribers, employees of their advertising and promo agencies as well as relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo which is valid in Metro Manila only.

Who says you can only chat on the net?

As long as you've got SMART zed CHAT, all you need to chat is your SMART celfone. No need for a computer or internet access. Now you can chat anytime, anywhere and with whomever you want. Now nothing's going to stop you from chatting!

How to start chatting thru SMART zed:

Start chatting

1. Create your nickname. Type CHAT CREATE <nick> <sex> <age> <description> and send to 288. (e.g. CHAT CREATE LIMBO M 23 FUN-LOVING)
2. Type CHAT ACTIVE <your message> and send to 288. Your message will be sent to the last 5 active chat users. (e.g. CHAT ACTIVE Any one care to chat?)
3. Type CHAT <nick of the person you wish to chat with> <your message> and send to 288. Your message will be sent to the specified chat user only. (e.g. CHAT TOM Hi TOM!)

Chat for free from Nov 16-20 with SMART zed!

Note: Please be selective in giving out your actual cell phone number to other chatters. Always practice courtesy and common sense when chatting. Never divulge personal information. ₱2.50 per chat message sent. Send **CHAT HELP** to **288** to get more info on how to use SMART zed Chat. **Also available to Talk 'N Text subscribers.**

Christmas 2002

gifts for All

Shape Sorting Turtle from Fun Time, *Baby Company*

15-piece Newborn Gift Set from Magic Years, *Infants' Wear*

Lite Rider with European Canopy from Graco, *Baby Company*

6-piece Feeding Set with Zip-up Case from Classic Pooh, *Baby Company*

Plastic Utility Boxes from Disney, *Baby Company*

Large Cuddly Stuffed Puppies, *Toyworld*

Wobble Friends from Disney Babies, *Toyworld*

Giant Carrier Pack & Carry Play Yard and Bassinet, *Baby Company*

Toddler Shoes with Velcro Closure from Florsheim Kids, *Children's Shoes*

great gifts for babies and toddlers

3-piece Bonnet, Blouse and Shorts Set, *Infants' Wear*

Terry Bathrobe with Hood and matching Slippers, *Infants' Wear*

Thermal Receiving Blankets in 100% cotton from Carter's Starters, *Baby Company*

3-in-1 Fold 'n Go Play Gym with Case from Kids II, *Baby Company*

Two-piece Day Set from Blues Clues, *Infants' Wear*

Hanging Blouse and Shorts from Sesame Street, *Infants' Wear*

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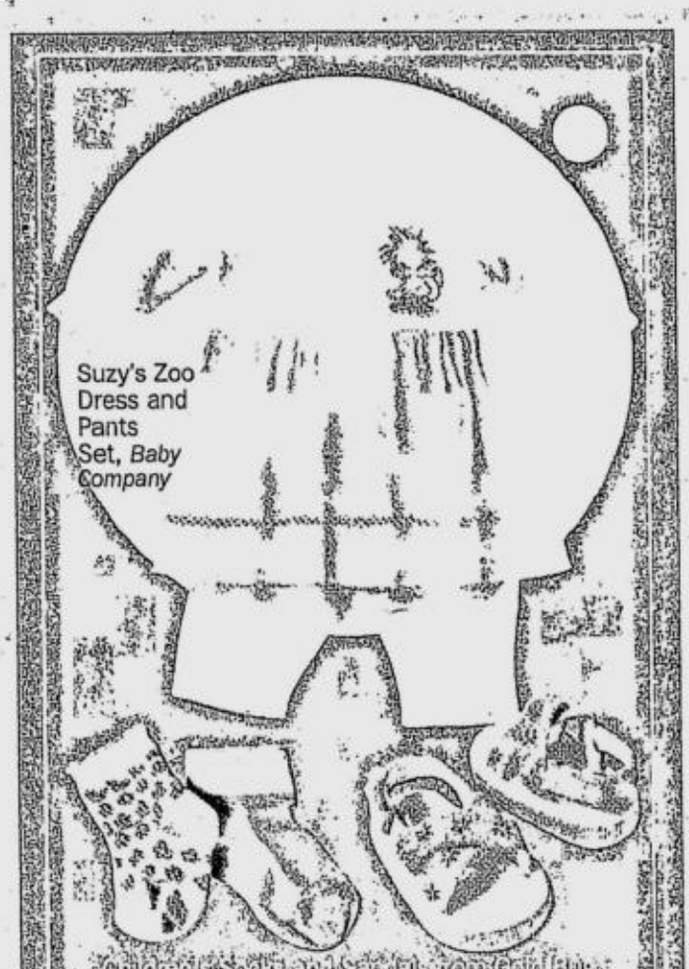
Christmas 2002

gifts for All

Stuffed Animal Toys from Lamaze, *Baby Company*

Baby Care Essentials from Pigeon, *Baby Company*

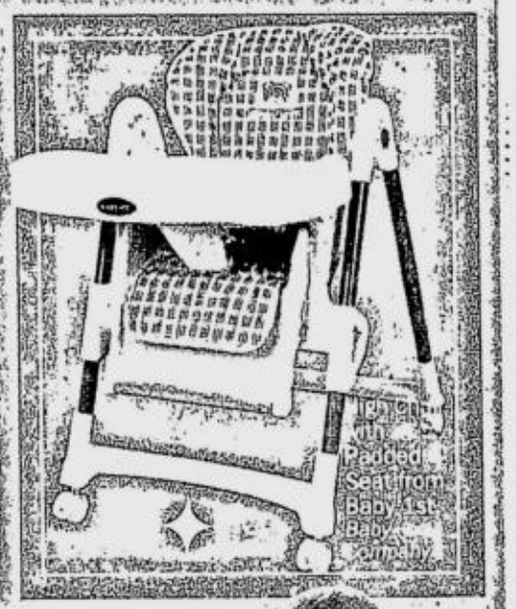
Feeding and Soothing Sets from The First Years, *Baby Company*



Suzy's Zoo Dress and Pants Set, *Baby Company*

Children's Socks and Sandals from Cecil Rips, *Baby Company*

6-piece Crib Set (comforter, bumper, fitted sheet, pillow & 2 bolster cases) from Disney Babies, *Baby Company*

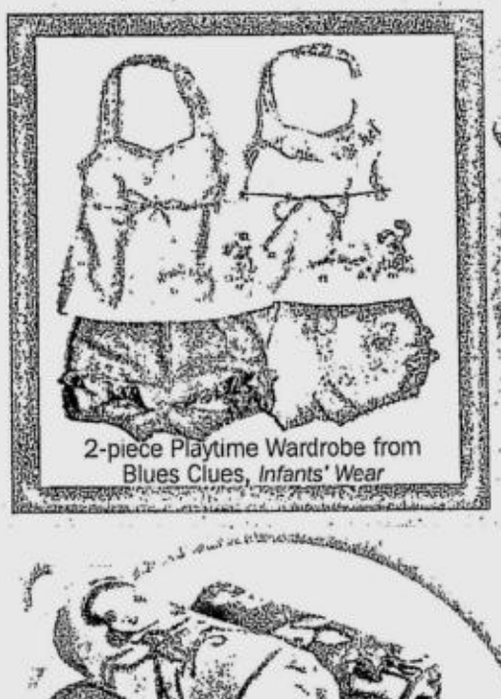


Tip Toy Padded Seat from Baby 1st, *Baby Company*

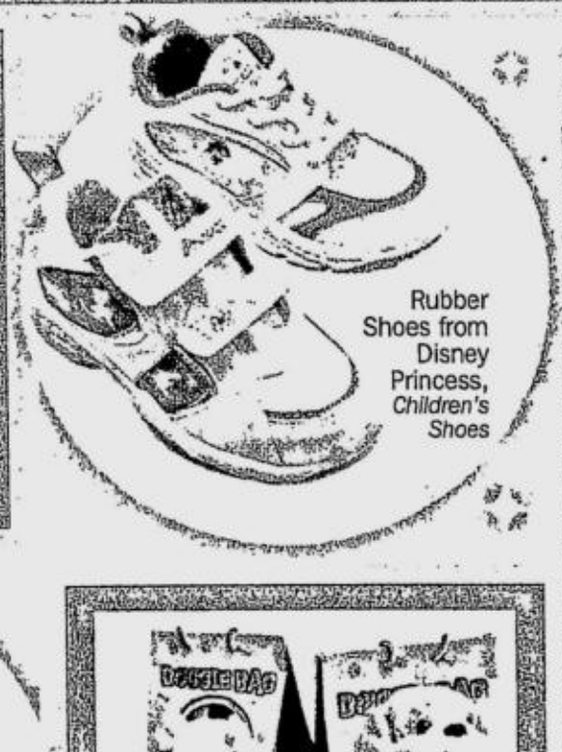
Winnie the Pooh and Friends Squeezies from Disney, *Baby Company*

First Step 3-in-1 Cruiser from V-tech, *Toyworld*

gifts of love from Infant's Wear, Children's Shoes, Baby Company and Toyworld



2-piece Playtime Wardrobe from Blues Clues, *Infants' Wear*



Rubber Shoes from Disney Princess, *Children's Shoes*

Towels from Disney, *Baby Company*

Assorted Doggie Bags from Tizzdale, *Toyworld*

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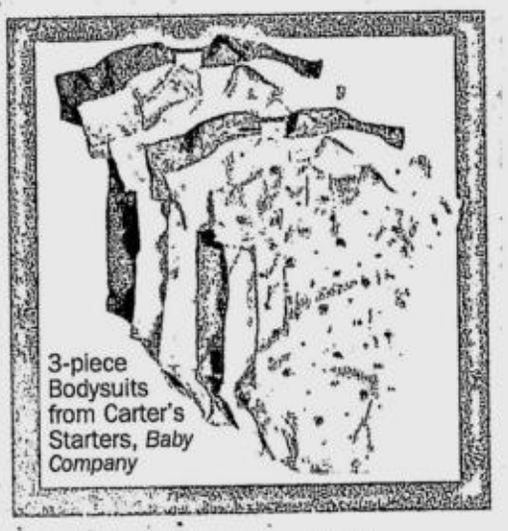
christmas 2002



3-piece Bodysuits from Carter's Starters, *Baby Company*

Jumpsuits with Animal Patches from Carter's Starters, *Baby Company*

10-piece Essential Care Baby Basics from The First Years, *Baby Company*

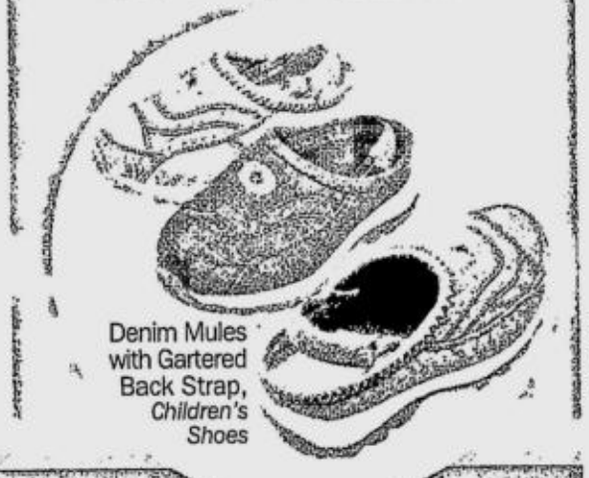
Foldable Sweet Dreams Pack 'n Play Pen from Graco, *Baby Company*

Discovery Fun, Look & Play from Lamaze, *Baby Company*

Baby's Fun Book from Kids II, *Baby Company*

Multi-compartment Diaper Bag from Beary Basics, *Baby Company*

Teddy Activity Play Gym from Fun Time, *Baby Company*



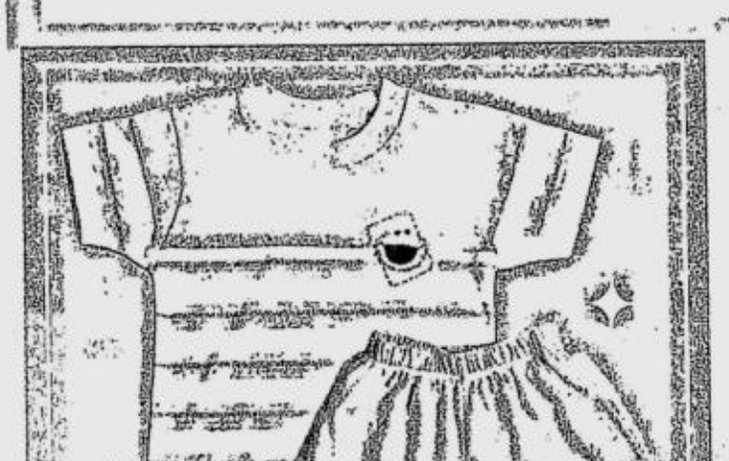
Denim Mules with Gartered Back Strap, *Children's Shoes*

great gifts to wear, to use, to have fun with

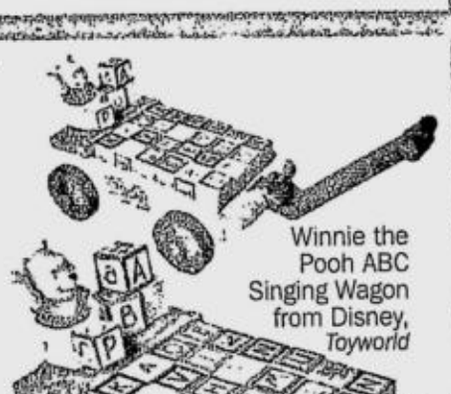
Ball Toyz from Intex, *Toyworld*

Rubber Shoes from Sesame Street, *Children's Shoes*

Storage Bins with 12 Large Trays, *Baby Company*



High-back Car Seat from Cosco, *Baby Company*



Winnie the Pooh ABC Singing Wagon from Disney, *Toyworld*

Kiddie Classics in CDs and Cassettes from Baby Genius, *Baby Company*

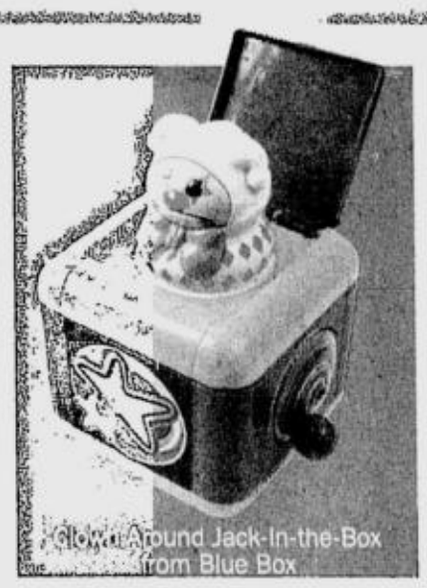
Portable Potty Trainer from The First Years, *Baby Company*

Perfect for the all-holiday gifting for babies and toddlers

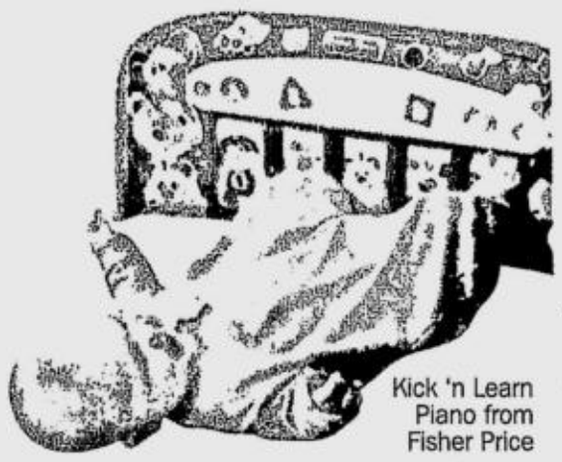
christmas 2002

gifts for All

Baby Mickey Smile 'n Play Shape Sorter from Fisher Price

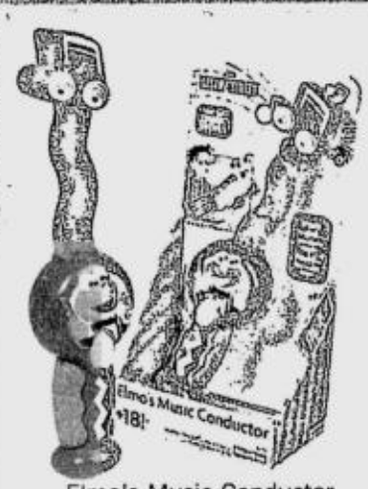


Hollow Around Jack-In-the-Box from Blue Box



Kick 'n Learn Piano from Fisher Price

Happy Garden Banana Slide from Chicco

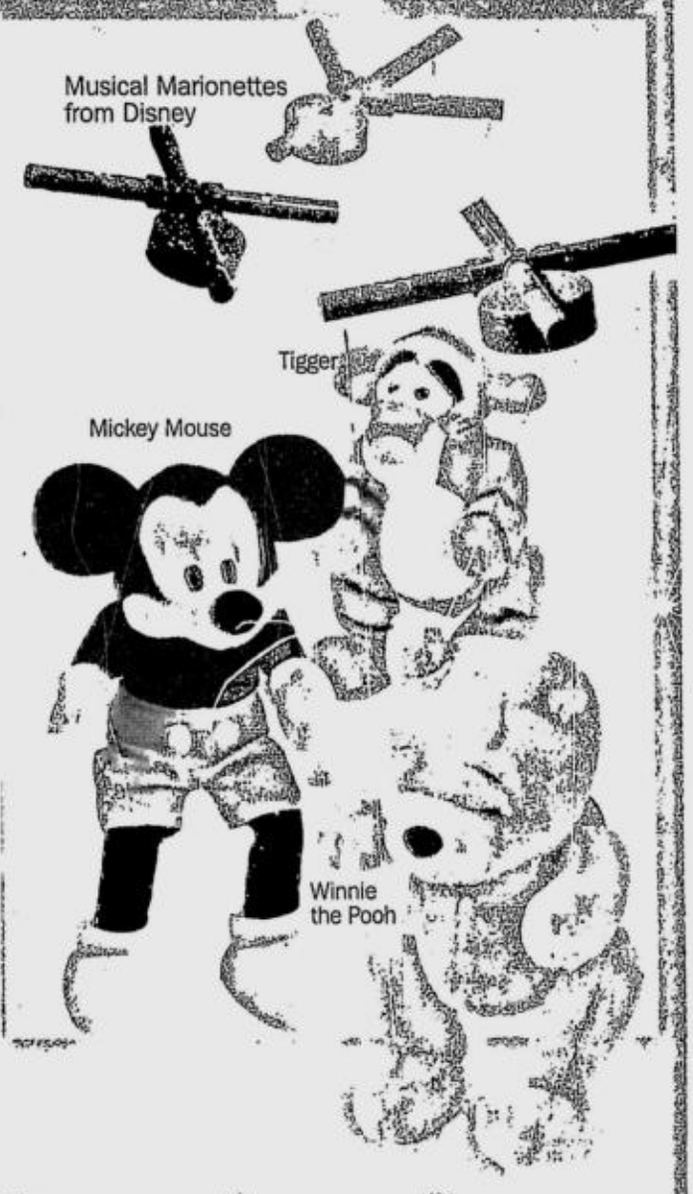


Elmo's Music Conductor with Musical Wand from Sesame Street

Making Music Cube with Sound Effects from Sesame Street

Neat 'n Stack Trains from Shelcore

Wobbling-Along Ali the Alligator from Fun Time



from toyworld creating lifetime playwith and learn from

Toddler Trike from Fisher Price

See and Go Toot-Toot Helicopter and Beetle from Blue Box

Action Heroes Pull 'n Go ATV from Spider Man and Friends

Crime Fighter Spider-Man with web projectile from Marvel Heroes

Musical Rock 'n Roll School Bus from Blue Box

Tool Box Play Set from Shelcore

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JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2002
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Most occupations require at least a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science, Engineering and other related discipline, and relevant experience.

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- Has process management understanding and appreciation.
- Has product management skills roll-out sales programs.
- 4 years experience required.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER (TELECOM)

- At least 4 years experience in telecommunications or IT industries with extensive customer interface experience.
- Programming in C, C++, Delphi, Visual Basic or Java, use of HTML, Javascript, VB Script, and WML.
- Ability to test and support embedded systems within aggressive schedules and solve all technical problems creatively.
- Knowledge of cryptography & communication protocols.
- Knowledge of database systems and/or personalization system software and exposure to niche areas such as mobile telephony and IT security. (PKI, payment methods, loyalty scheme, etc.) an advantage.

APPLICATIONS DEVELOPER

- At least 2 years experience in programming JAVA, XML, XSLT, Javasript, HTML and knowledgeable in Tomcat 4.0 and SQL.

SYSTEMS ANALYST

- At least 2 years experience.
- Proficient in Visual Basic 6

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- BS degree in computer related course.
- Knowledgeable in UNIX and/or Windows NT / 2000 / xp servers.
- Preferably with exposure on cluster servers.
- Experience in Tandem / Network Admin.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

- Must have at least 2 years experience in IT support.
- Candidates must posses strong knowledge in Operating systems preferably Windows 2000 and Windows NT 4.0, MS Office.
- Must have networking skills (TCP/IP).
- Oracle/SQL database experience is an advantage.

JAVA PROGRAMMERS

- At least 1 year experience.
- Proficient in JAVA (Standard Edition), JSP / Servlet, HTML, Javascript, SQL.
- UML knowledge required.
- Solid understanding of J2EE.
- Experience in JAVA Enterprise edition, MQ Series and directory server an advantage.
- Knowledge in Websphere 3.5X, DB27X, Visual AGE, JAVA IDE an advantage.

COBOL PROGRAMMERS

- At least 2 to 3 years experience.
- Proficient in COBOL, CICS, GCL, DB2, and VSAM.

IT SUPPORT

- At least 3 years experience in a technical support environment.
- Highly skilled in network and operating systems and with similar experience.

Look for Alvin – 813 3000 Local 308

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Most occupations require at least a bachelors degree in Finance or Accounting & related courses, and relevant experience in the industry.

ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

- CPA & with previous involvement in Management Accounting or Business Analysis.
- Able to demonstrate that they can be managed remotely.
- Computer literate (Excel, Word, and Financial accounting packages)

BILLING ADMINISTRATOR

- High proficiency in Microsoft applications with minimum 2 years work experience in Accounts Receivables, Collection and Revenue accounting required.
- Exposure to computerized Accounting / Billing system.
- Work experience in a Multinational Company is preferred.

COLLECTION ASSISTANT

- Must be a team player, who has experience in a highly service-oriented company.
- Able to create methods to efficiently collect due accounts and at least 2 years experience in credit and collection.

PRODUCT SUPPORT CONSULTANT

- Good command of software packages such as Excel spreadsheet and Visual Basic.
- Good organizational and management skills.
- Candidates with financial background / knowledge in financial markets is an advantage.

CLIENT SERVICE EXECUTIVE

- Possesses background / knowledge about financial markets.
- Good problem solving skills, ability to handle / diffuse difficult situations & resolve issues.

BROKER SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

- Capable to liaise with brokers and broker support on entitlement issues.
- Capable to conduct training on First Call products primarily on Web Author.
- Documentation and recommendations (edit queue, process web author documents)

QUERIES SENIOR ANALYST COMPANY FUNDAMENTALS

- Must have a good understanding of financial markets.
- Must have very good attention to details.
- PC skills, and excellent written and oral communication skills in English.

NEWS ANALYST COMPANY FUNDAMENTALS

- Graduate of Finance or Accounting.
- Must have a good understanding in financial markets.

NEWS ANALYST COMPANY FUNDAMENTALS (Mandarin & Spanish)

- Graduate of Finance, Communication, or International Language.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office programs and internet usage.
- Proficient in both written and spoken Mandarin or Spanish.
- For Spanish requirement, certification from an accredited Spanish institution or DELE is an advantage.

DATA ANALYST SECURITIES & EQUITIES

- Must have a good understanding of the financial markets.
- Must have very good attention to details. PC skills.

Look for Hany– 813 3000 Local 319

TELECOMMUNICATION SALES

COUNTRY SALES MANAGER TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Degree in Electronics or Computer Science
- At least 4 years Sales experience in telecommunications or IT industries.
- Knowledge of cryptography or mobile communication.
- Exposure to IT security (PKI, payment methods, loyalty schemes...) an advantage.

EXPORT SALES MANAGER TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- At least 4 years Sales experience in telecommunications or IT industries.
- Excellent in written and oral communication skills.
- Degree in Electronics or Computer Science
- Knowledge of cryptography or mobile communication.
- Exposure to IT security (PKI, payment methods, loyalty schemes...) an advantage.

SALES MANAGER TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Degree of Engineering or Business or an equivalent combination of education and related experience.
- At least 8 years of selling experience to Telecommunications Service operators.
- Excellent contacts and network in Philippines Telecom Services Provider at all level, resourceful, diplomacy, good presentation and written communication skills.
- Good understanding of the Telecom industry, market and product area.
- Proven ability to interface and coordinate work with internal departments and external customers at all levels, business partners and industry leaders.

Look for Joy – 8133000 Local 309

RECRUITMENT

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

- Must be able to identify winners, with proven track record in recruitment and placement of highly qualified personnel.
- With background in training and people development.
- Strategic thinker.
- With at least 5 years experience in Human Resource Management.

RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT

- Must have experience in a highly service-oriented company.
- Proficient in both oral and written English.
- Capable to recruit top-level management positions.
- Confident and knows how to interface with high profile clients and candidates.
- Highly service oriented.
- Proactive in establishing and identifying leads and following through to project execution.

Look for Tess – 813 3000 Local 305

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST CALL CENTER DIVISION

- Must have experience in a highly service-oriented company.
- Must be knowledgeable in call center operations.
- Excellent in both oral and written English
- Capable of recruiting call center professionals.
- Proactive in establishing and identifying leads and following through to project execution.

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL DIVISION

- Must have experience in a highly service-oriented company.
- Must have an engineering or technical background.
- Proficient in oral and written English.
- Capable in recruiting IT and other technical related professionals.
- Proactive in establishing and identifying leads and following through to project execution.

CALL CENTER

CALL CENTER MANAGER

- Must have an operations and recruitment background from a call center company.
- Wide exposure in a highly customer-oriented function.
- Able to lead, motivate and supervise people.
- Highly dynamic, proactive, and goal oriented.
- Must be capable of working under pressure to fight deadlines.
- Capable of initiating and managing recruitment projects for diverse range of client needs.

FRONT LINE MANAGER

- Must have good management skills.
- At least with 2 to 3 years work experience in any customer care related company.
- Must have IT skills and technical background.
- Hotel and Restaurant background an advantage.
- Excellent in both oral and written English.
- Modulated voice quality.

TEAM LEADER

- At least with 1 year work experience in any customer care related company.
- Must have an IT or technical background.
- Handles Inbound calls.
- Fluent in both oral and written English.
- Modulated voice quality.
- Possess good customer care skills.

CALL CENTER AGENTS

- Fresh graduates of IT-related courses.
- Graduates of a 2 year IT/Technical related courses with relevant work experience is ok.
- Must have IT or technical background.
- Fluent in both oral and written English.
- Modulated voice quality.
- Possess good customer care skills

PRODUCT SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

- Should have solid telephone / client service experience.
- Fluent in verbal and written English.
- Familiarity with computers and the Internet is essential.
- Outbound calls.

Look for Yhoj – 813 3000 Local 317

OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Strong, energetic & a quick thinker.
- Totally client focused.
- Decisive, with good judgment and attentive to details.
- Highly organized & systematic to work in a fast paced working environment.
- Able to motivate a group to achieve end results.
- Must have a direct and factual communication style.

OPERATIONS MANAGER FOOD INDUSTRY

- Management of multi-site retail selling business (at least 4 years managerial experience).
- Have handled and managed a group of people.
- Experience in Customer negotiations.
- Sales & collection experience.
- Knowledgeable in the field of contracts and obligations.
- Excellent in verbal and written English language.
- Proficient in the use of MS Word, Excel, & Powerpoint.
- Knowledgeable in the use of SAP R/3 an advantage.
- Holder of a valid driver's license & willing to do fieldwork.
- 25 to 35 years old.

FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST(SENIOR / JUNIOR STAFF) FOOD INDUSTRY

- Preferably Business Management or other related business course preparation.
- With experience in the management of multi-site retail selling business.
- Experience in Customer negotiations.
- Sales and collections experience.
- Knowledgeable in the field of contracts and obligations.
- Excellent in verbal and written English language.
- Proficient in the use of MS Word, Excel, & Powerpoint.
- Knowledgeable in the use of SAP R/3 an advantage.
- Holder of a valid driver's license & willing to do fieldwork.

JUNIOR TRAINER

- Must be well versed in the whole training cycle from conducting of needs assessment.
- Formulating of training modules, implementation of training programs, to post assessment / evaluation.
- Must have at least 2 years solid work experience.
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or Management.
- Advance certificate courses in Computer specifically Multi-Media programs.
- Web site Development, and Video Production a must.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

- Must have experience in a highly service-oriented company and could effectively attend to the managed staffing services.
- Able to motivate a group of Project Specialists to achieve expected standard of performance based on Service Level Agreement.
- Willing to do On-site visits to Key Performance Indicators

PROJECT SPECIALIST

- Must have experience in a highly service-oriented company and could effectively attend to the managed staffing services.
- Decisive, with a good judgment and very keen on details.
- Willing to do On-site visits to Key Performance Indicators.
- This position requires a good sense of human relations, a strong personality, and self sufficiency.

Look for Maricris – 813 3000 Local 448

Interested candidates may personally bring their resumes to:

ADD | Force. Immigration. International.

3/F Pilar Bldg. 148 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No.: 813 3000 Fax no. 894-1357 Email: addforce@pacific.net.ph

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE APPLICANTS.

spi technologies inc.

solutions for a changing world

SPI Technologies is an industry leader in providing diversified value-added information technology (IT) services to clients all over the world.

Our VISION is to be the premier business partner for providing outsourced information technology services and solutions to the global market.

We are PLEASED to invite qualified people to explore career opportunities with us as we continue to grow and fulfill our commitment to the creation of delighted customers in the global outsourced IT service industry.

Shift Supervisors

The successful candidates will be responsible for supervising and coordinating the work activities of the shift personnel according to the company's productivity and accuracy standards.

- College degree holders of any 4 or 5 year course
- Must have at least 3 years supervisory work experience in a manufacturing firm
- Must possess good interpersonal skills
- Preferably with knowledge in basic computer operations

Programmers

The successful candidates will be responsible in producing programs from client specifications.

- College degree holders of any I.T. related field
- Has adequate experience in using Clipper or any DOS Xbase language
- Has background on n-tier development using Visual Basic, SQL and Windows NT
- Knowledge in web-based development is a definite advantage
- Willing to work in any shift

Project Liaisons

The successful candidates will be responsible for leading the project team and for integrating functional/ operational resources towards the achievement of project goals.

- College degree holders of Management, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Statistics,Computer Science or any related course
- Must possess good oral and written English communication skills
- With at least one year supervisory work experience in production industry
- Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge in programming is an advantage

Interested applicants are requested to send or e-mail their résumé with recent photo, and photocopy of transcript of records to:

SPI - RECRUITMENT OFFICE
2nd floor Skyfreight Bldg. C NAIA Road
corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City 1700
E-mail: j.labis@spitech.com
WWW: http://www.spitech.com

ZURICH

Zurich Life Insurance Philippines, Inc. is in need of the following:

Actuarial Analyst

- graduate of BS Mathematics, Statistics, Actuarial Science or related field
- 2-3 years focused actuarial experience in a life insurance or pre-need company
- previous exposure to financial reporting, group insurance, reinsurance and experience studies preferred
- knowledge of actuarial software and fluency in visual basic an advantage
- proven ability to pass actuarial exams (Society of Actuaries) or ASP
- recent graduates with superior academic records and actuarial exams passed are also encouraged to apply

Life Underwriting Manager

- college graduate, preferably with medical background
- with at least 3 years experience in life/health underwriting and administration gained from a life insurance company, preferably in a managerial capacity
- with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- must have the ability to manage and supervise people
- must be able to initiate action and decision
- knowledge in MS Office

If you have the above qualifications, please e-mail your resumé to **zuriphil@zurich.com** or you may send it to:

Zurich Life Insurance Philippines, Inc.
Zurich General Insurance Philippines, Inc.
28/F Petron MegaPlaza Building
358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Zurich Philippines is one of the leading providers of life and non-life insurance and is a member of the Zurich Financial Services Group (ZFSG) based in Switzerland.

ADB — Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Associate Desktop Publishing Administrator

Reporting Arrangements:
The position directly reports to the Head, Printing and Graphics Section, Office of Administrative Services.

Description of Responsibilities:

The position is primarily responsible for planning, organizing and supervising the work of the Desktop Publishing Unit which provides typesetting, page layouting and film output services for ADB documents and publications. Specific responsibilities include:

- **Planning/Scheduling** - schedules activities in work area to meet overall deadlines for finished products; alerts Printing Assistant or Administration Officer to potential bottlenecks or other problems; plans the work within the Unit by reviewing work instructions, establishing work procedures and materials needed for production, determining quality levels and determining time standards and cost estimates for each type of work; assigns work to technicians and monitors rate of progress to ensure compliance with schedule dates; takes preventive measures to resolve production bottlenecks through coordination with own supervisor and other Printing Supervisors;
- **Supervision** - supervises the Unit by ensuring prompt attendance and punctuality of staff, ensuring that equipment and supplies are used for official purposes and ADB guidelines are strictly adhered to;
- **Equipment Maintenance** - reviews preventive maintenance program regularly with equipment supplier; plans and provides necessary time for preventive maintenance work in order to ensure all equipment and related facilities are maintained at top efficiency at all times; enforces safety regulations, good housekeeping practices, and preventive maintenance of equipment by ensuring that all subordinate staff are familiar with relevant work policies, procedures, and safety guidelines; ensures safe storage of client materials such as drafts, computer files, originals and their safe return after completion of work; and
- **Inventory Control** - monitors consumption of materials and ensures that stocks are maintained at efficient levels.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- four-year college degree in Electronic Publishing or Fine Arts;
- minimum of eight years related experience;
- proficiency in the operation of micro computers and DTP softwares; and
- knowledge of proofreading techniques and attention to detail.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

Apply online at http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp or send application, quoting Ref. No. EXT-SS02-022(4)-OAGS-PG, by 22 November 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

ADB — Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

COPY EDITOR (2 Positions)

Reporting Arrangements:
The position reports to Senior Secretariat Officer (Editing), Office of the Secretary.

Description of Responsibilities:

The position will perform a full range of editorial tasks under the supervision of professional staff editors. Specific responsibilities include:

- Assisting the professional staff editors and consultant editors with editing of Board documents, as assigned;
- Assisting with checking and standardizing the format of Board documents, especially of tabular material;
- Checking references for format and accuracy;
- Clearing documents for printing following guidelines developed by the professional staff editors;
- Assisting in giving workshops to staff on preparing Board documents; and
- Performing other supportive editorial tasks as may be assigned.

Selection Criteria:

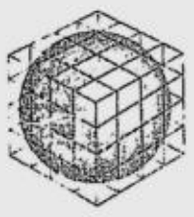
- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- At least a four-year college degree; preferably a master's degree in a communication field;
- At least three (3) years experience as an editor;
- Native speaker level of written and spoken English;
- Good computer skills with sound knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, and graphics software;
- Ability to work with individuals from different cultural/national backgrounds;
- Good interpersonal and communications skills;
- Ability to manage priorities and workload within general schedule of work, instructions, and standardized practices;
- Ability to work with minimum supervision, and maintain composure under pressure; and
- Ability to teach adults in a workshop setting.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

Apply online at http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp or send application, quoting Ref. No. EXT-SS02-020(3)-OSEC, by 22 November 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.



The **Transnational Diversified Group (TDG)** is a Philippine-based conglomerate of dynamic and forward-looking corporations engaged in widely diverse businesses such as Total Logistics, Transportation, Shipping & Cargo Forwarding, Warehousing & Distribution, Ship Management, Maritime E-Training, Medical Services, Travel & Tour, Airline GSA, Aviation Services, Pre-Need Plans, Food Service and Franchising, Securities & Investments, Real Estate Development, IT & Business Process Outsourcing Services, E-Business Solutions, and related businesses.

SUPERVISOR

Candidates must be a graduate of any business course preferably with Accounting and Finance background and with good academic record. He/She will perform audit reviews, contract entry, and assorted tasks related to Airline Revenue Accounting Business Process Services. He/She will provide functional and technical training of other team members as needed. Must have good analytical skills and the ability to research and troubleshoot complicated audit matters. Have ability to navigate audit system conversation 'flow' with speed and accuracy. Must have good grasp of Microsoft Office Products and have outstanding customer service orientation and skills. Work independently as well as in a team setting with excellent oral and written communication skills. Previous airline experience is a plus, but not required.

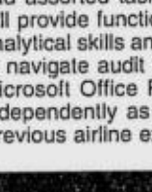
DATA ENCODER

Candidates must be a graduate of any business course. Between 20-25 years old, preferably at least 1 year of working experience in the field of Airline Revenue Accounting Business Process Services and must be proficient in typing. He/She must be computer literate and has good oral and written communication skills. Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

Attractive compensation packages, group life insurance, a healthcare program, training and scholarship programs await successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumés with 2 recent ID photos on or before ***19 November 2002*** to:

HRD OFFICE, TRANSNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED GROUP, INC.
2/F Mary Bachrach Building, 25th cor. A.C. Delgado Sts., Port Area, Manila
Beside the Manila Hotel
E-mail: hrd@tdgworld.com
Telephone nos. 527-8888



Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

CASP* TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANAGER

[* *Common Approach to Sponsorship Programming* –Sponsorship programs are an important part of Save the Children's work world-wide and by implementing CASP it will enable Save the Children to provide more resources for higher quality programs that benefit children. The Common Approach provides a common understanding of what frameworks, tools and measures will be adopted to ensure that Save the Children's programs are more focused, results-oriented, measurable and are of the highest quality.]

Reporting directly to the Country Director of the Philippines Field Office, the CASP Technical Assistance Manager will provide technical support on a regional level to the Bangladesh. Himalayan and Philippines Field Office towards achieving the following goals: (1) Meeting CASP implementation milestones with an emphasis on creating programs that deliver measurable results, (2) Maintaining consistency in the implementation of CASP across these field office, in close collaboration with key technical staff at headquarters and in the field, (3) Ensuring that sponsorship-funded programming is well-integrated within the agency-wide program directions at the field office level.

Key responsibilities:

The CASP Technical Assistance Manager shall: (1) provide guidance to field office management and staff in refining CASP transition guidelines, (2) assist senior field office staff in completing situational analyses linked to the CASP core subsectors and defining/refining the results framework in these areas, (3) assist program technical champions and other key staff in defining identifying indicators and developing monitoring and evaluation designs, (4) conduct staff training and workshops to strengthen local capacity in implementing the Common Approach.

The position will require periodic travel to the Bangladesh and Himalayan Field Offices. During these trips, the CASP Technical Assistant Manager is expected to prepare detailed scopes of work, trip reports and similar documentation of activities undertaken in the field. He/she will also be expected to participate in key sponsorship activities that may be scheduled from time to time.

Requirements:

This is a senior position requiring strong leadership and management skills; Previous Asian regional work experience highly preferred; Bachelor's degree in economics, health, social science or relevant discipline required; Masters' degree in economics, health or social science preferred. Minimum of ten years program development experience with concentration in program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Demonstrated training skills. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumes on or before November 20, 2002 to: *By mail* - CODE: CASP TAM, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax*: (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail*: egeolina@savechildren.org (please indicate code "CASP TAM" in subject line).

Looking for a Career?

With 41 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. We are also known to build fast track dynamic careers.

Due to our current expansion, we are looking for experienced Travel Consultants for one of the world's leading global travel, financial and network services provider

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE – AIR (CSR-AIR)

- ✈ *Graduates of any 4-year course preferably Tourism, Foreign Service and other related courses*
- ✈ *Experience in an Airline company as a passenger service agent would be an advantage*
- ✈ *Excellent reading comprehension skills, problem solving and data analysis skills*
- ✈ *Has the ability to absorb and utilize complex information*
- ✈ *Has initiative, an eye for detail and excellent customer service skills*
- ✈ *Basic knowledge the Internet and MS Office Applications*
- ✈ *Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills*

As these are **URGENT** requirements, all interested applicants are requested to personally submit their updated CV's from **Monday to Friday, 8:00AM-5:00PM** to our HRD.

SYKES℠

28F Robinson Summit Bldg.,
6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1200
E-mail: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com;Website: http://www.sykes.com

Looking for a Career?

With 41 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. We are also known to build fast track dynamic careers.

Due to our current expansion, we are looking for experienced Travel Consultants for one of the world's leading global travel, financial and network services provider

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE for FINANCE (CSR-FIN)

- ➢ *Graduates of Accounting, Economics, Financial Management and other business-related courses*
- ➢ *Experience in Stock Brokerage, Portfolio Management and Financial Services would be an advantage*
- ➢ *Excellent reading comprehension skills, problem solving and data analysis skills*
- ➢ *Has the ability to absorb and utilize complex information*
- ➢ *Has initiative, an eye for detail and excellent customer service skills*
- ➢ *Basic knowledge the Internet and MS Office Applications*
- ➢ *Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills*

As these are **URGENT** requirements, all interested applicants are requested to personally submit their updated CV's and transcript of records from **Monday to Friday, 8:00AM-5:00PM** to our HRD.

SYKES℠

28F Robinson Summit Bldg.,
6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1200
E-mail: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com;Website: http://www.sykes.com

The *Academy for Educational Development*, a US-Based private voluntary organization contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the "Energy and Environment Policy and Training Program," from 2002-2004, is calling on small, local firms to join its pool of event managers.

Interested parties must meet the following qualifications:

- Specializes in organizing, managing and/or executing any of the following events — trainings, seminars, workshops, public meetings, fora & conferences
- Client- and development-oriented
- Capable and willing to handle event management work even on short notice
- Prior experience working for a foreign-funded government project, preferred
- Knowledge of energy and environment issues, preferred

Applicants may send their letters of interest, company profiles and other related information not later than ***COB of 29 November 2002.***

Mail delivery to: **Academy for Educational Development**
2nd Floor NEDI Bldg.,
Energy Center, Merritt Rd.,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Or e-mail to: **consultant@pccmp.com.ph**

SYKES℠ *The global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies is looking for highly qualified individuals for our Support Team.*

Recruitment Manager (Code: Rec Mgr)

➢ Graduate of BS/AB Psychology or Behavioral Science courses, Master's Degree preferred, but not a requirement
➢ Minimum of 3-5 years management experience in the over-all facets of HR with expertise in Recruitment and Selection, gained from a multi-national company
➢ Excellent business writing, presentation, negotiation and diplomacy skills
➢ Excellent customer service skills, pro-active, team player and wiling to work on long hours, as required

Trainers (Code: Trng)

➢ Graduate of any 4 year course, preferably in Psychology, Behavioral Science or it's equivalent
➢ Minimum of 3 years experience in designing and conducting training programs
➢Fluent English communication and presentation skills
➢Excellent customer service skills, pro-active, team player and wiling to work on long hours, as required

Sr. Software Engineer (Code: SE2)

➢ Graduate of any 4 year course, Computer Science, MIS or it's equivalent
➢ Minimum of 2 years experience in system development and analysis
➢In-depth knowledge and proficiency in C++, ASP, VBScript, Javascript, HTML, DHTML, ADO, OLEDB, XML, Visual Basic and COM
➢Knowledgeable in data warehousing and business intelligence software, an advantage
➢Hands-on experience in Operating Systems, Web Servers and SQL Servers
➢Pro-active, team player and wiling to work on long hours, as required

Implementation Manager (Code: IM)

➢ Graduate of 4 or 5 year college course
➢ Minimum of 2 years management experience, preferably gained from a call center or related project implementation experience
➢ High organization and planning skills with excellent business writing, presentation, negotiation and diplomacy skills
➢ Excellent customer service skills, pro-active, team player and wiling to work on long hours, as required

Sales Support Officers (Code: SSO)

➢ Graduate of 4 or 5 year college course preferably in Business, Marketing or other related fields with minimum of 2 years of marketing or customer relations experience
➢ High organization and planning skills; excellent data analysis and presentation skills
➢ Excellent customer service skills, pro-active, team player, creative and wiling to work on long hours, as required

Jr. Software Engineer (Code: SE1)

➢ Graduate of any 4 year course, Computer Science, MIS or it's equivalent
➢Work experience in
➢Had software development experience using C++, ASP, VBScript, Javascript, HTML, DHTML, ADO, OLEDB, XML, Visual Basic and COM
➢Knowledgeable Internet Programming
➢Hands-on experience in Operating Systems, Web Servers and SQL Servers
➢Pro-active, team player and wiling to work on long hours, as required

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are encouraged to send their updated CV's to **SYKES ASIA, INC., 28F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City** or e-mail these to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com.
Applications without JOB CODES will not be processed

Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company.

THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD

We are inviting successful individuals to take part in our company's continued growth. Exciting work challenges, training and development opportunities, and competitive remuneration and benefits package await the right candidates for the following immediate requirements:

For Alabang Corporate Office

FINANCIAL PLANNING ANALYST

The Financial Planning Analyst will provide technical assistance in evaluating and monitoring the company's performance in the key result areas of investment income growth and investible generation. Ideally, the applicant must be a CPA and/or with masteral degree/units in Business Administration, with at least 1 year work experience in financial analysis, audit, investment management, and/or treasury trading, with excellent written and verbal communication and negotiation skills.

ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS

Analysts/Programmers will be responsible for studying, planning, developing, and implementing application systems/packages based on users' requirements. We welcome graduates of any four-year computer-related or business course, with 2 to 6 years of work experience in structured systems analysis, design, and programming, particularly involving full cycle systems development projects using COBOL/Unix, Powerbuilder, JAVA, ASP, and/or Visual Basic, and with excellent customer service orientation.

COMPUTER OPERATOR

The Computer Operator will be tasked to execute computerized processes based on run guides and to maintain service level agreement by ensuring that job order requests are processed and are made available to users within set standards of timeliness and quality. The applicant must be a graduate of any four-year computer course, with good academic records, at least 1 year of relevant work experience, good written/verbal communication skills, and excellent customer service orientation.

MEDICAL SERVICES ASSISTANT

The Medical Services Assistant will be assigned to provide medical services for life insurance application requirement, pre-employment, and employees' annual check-up and their dependents', by performing laboratory exams for proper diagnosis and treatment of diseases/sickness within set turnaround time. We require the applicant to be a Licensed Radiologic Technologist, with at least 1 year experience in medical clinic administration and in the conduct of laboratory exams, with good written/verbal communication skills, excellent customer service orientation, and proficiency in MS Office applications.

For Alabang and Makati Offices

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Service Assistants will provide administrative support to all types of policy servicing requirements within standard turnaround time. Applicants must be graduates of any four-year business or medical-related course, with good scholastic records, preferably with experience in backroom policy servicing functions or other comparable work in customer service, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and proficiency in MS Office applications.

For Dagupan and San Pablo Regional Offices

SALES TRAINING OFFICERS

Sales Training Officers shall be responsible for planning, organizing, conducting, and evaluating training programs for the continuous development of the company's sales agency force. Applicants must be graduates of any social science or business course, with 2 to 5 years' work experience in sales training and development, or any comparable experience in sales and marketing, must have keen interest and aptitude to fulfill the requirements of the life insurance basic training program for trainers, and the willingness to go on frequent travels to field offices within the assigned region.

We encourage qualified aspirants to e-mail their application letters, with updated resumés in plain text format (as part of the main body of the email and not as file attachment), indicating the position desired as the email subject, with contact numbers, references, as well as current and expected pay.

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Young achiever combines productivity, fun

By Rochelle Leonor

HR FOCUS

WHEN he walks into the room, his good looks and confidence capture attention. But when this young man starts talking, you know there's more to him that meets the eye.

This is because Engelbert Camasura is an achiever, and quite proud of it. Only in his early 30s, Camasura is the manager of the HRD and general services department of Sony Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

He is mainly responsible for managing the talents of the organization which he considers a challenge. He says, "The human resources must be ready to face the challenge of the ever-changing and growing business evolution. There must be continuous programs geared toward the total development of the people."

Productive

His major task is to ensure that people at Sony Life remain happy with the organization. "We want our employees to be productive while at the same time, have fun." He states that it is important to create an atmosphere where people can interact comfortably with fellow employees.

Camasura says it is not an easy thing to do. "To handle even just one person is difficult because of his mood swings, attitudes and personality," he says. Presently, Sony Life has 70 employees.

Sony Life is a flagship company of Sony's financial business group. Sony Group members include Sony Music, Sony Pictures and Sony Playstation. For 20 years, it has been operating in Japan. In 1998, it established a company in the country.

He says he finds it interesting to work with a starting company because it required him to set up the human resource management foundation in the company. His is fascinated with exploring human resource tools, both for the short and long terms. "I plan for up to 10 years in advance," Camasura says. "My strategy right now is to determine what tools are essential for us to survive in the future."

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

CAMASURA

His rise in the corporate ladder is a planned one. Camasura says that he had always wanted to be in the field of human resources. He took his undergraduate course in BS Behavioral Science from the University of Sto. Tomas. After graduating though, he dabbled into marketing, working as a professional medical representative for a pharmaceutical company.

Deliberate plan

He said the move was part of a deliberate plan. "I wanted first to have an understanding of what marketing is—how to work with people," he explains. "I capitalized what I learned and eventually moved into HR."

He says that while he was in the marketing field, he continued improving his skills for HR. He attended several training programs. He exposed himself to basic HR functions. He also took post-graduate studies in Industrial Psychology from the De La Salle University.

Marketing also gave him lessons in confidence. This helped him when he made the transition to HR. "You need to be confident in partnering with people," he states. "If you're not very confident, your credibility in dealing with them is questioned."

Eventually, he became human resources assistant at the Development Bank of the Philippines. Backed by a post-graduate degree, Camasura quickly moved up the corporate ladder. By the time he turned 25, he was already HR manager for Filinvest Alabang Inc. In 1998, Sony Life hired him.

Simple guy

Although he is relatively young, this does not stop him from being an effective HR manager. His older colleagues treat him as their equal, and they are able to collaborate on their programs. Camasura maintains that his disposition—the fact that he is sincere in his job and he respects his co-workers—enables him to work effectively with others. "I am just a simple guy. I don't have many hang-ups," he says.

Present...

(From page H12)

- Has a degree in journalism
- Can use MS Word, PageMaker and Excel
- Can write news reports
- Willing to accept night shift or out-of-town assignments
- Organized and systematic
- Values work excellence and integrity

Based on these features, list your advantages. For example, your advantages can include:

- Can get to work right away with minimal on-the-job training
- Can turn in reports faster
- Can be assigned anytime and anywhere as required by editorial operations
- Can turn in clean work
- Can cope up with the high journalistic standards of the company

Translate these advantages into the following benefits:

- With less coaching on the job needed, editors have more time for urgent and important tasks
- Reduced stress in following up late news reports
- Can be counted on to maintain good reputation of the paper

Preparation

After drawing up your list using the FAB technique, make sure all this information is covered in the job interview. Of course, you should let the interviewer ask the questions (they usually follow a format for this). Do not be too forward during the interview. But in the event some things in your list are missed out, do not hesitate to volunteer the information during the interview. To ensure that your FAB is presented, try using this guide in answering the interviewer, "This (feature) means you get (advantage) with the real benefit to you being (benefit).

For example, when the interviewer says, "So, you graduated from UST with a degree of journalism?" You can answer, "Yes, ma'am. With the good training I got from UST, I already have the basic knowledge on journalism and I can get to work as a reporter right away so that your editors will not spend too much time training me on the job." Or when the interviewer asks, "What are your personal values?" You can answer, "I believe in always turning in good work and this means that I can cope up with the journalistic standards of the paper with the benefit that I can be counted on to maintain the good reputation of your company."

Buyer's needs

Like any sales presentation, make sure you gear your FAB presentation to the needs of the company that you are applying to. To determine your target company's needs, do research on the company before your job interview. Read their annual reports or check out their sites. If you know some people who work in your target company, ask them for inside information. Listen to and observe the office personnel in your target company when you go there for the interview. Their behavior will give you an idea of the corporate culture of your target company. Another good source of information is the interviewer herself. For example, the interviewer may say, "We need to get a news reporter right away because of the upcoming election coverage." This indicates that they need someone who can get on board fast and work immediately with minimal training. You can thus emphasize your knowledge, skills, attitudes, habits and values that can address these needs.

With a mastery of this FABulous technique of successful salespeople, you may well be on your way to a fabulous career.

(Next week, learn how to handle objections and close the sale during the job interview. Email feedback to rreyes *@inquirer.com.ph.)*

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The **Women's Health & Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component**, a project of the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU), is currently in need of:

Life Skills/Children and Youth Participation Consultant

Who will work at national level to provide technical support in building partnerships for health between women, young people and children through the Child-to-Child approach. In 5 regions, namely: Cordillera Administrative Region, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Central Mindanao and Caraga.

Through participatory, child-centered learning methods, Child-to-Child supports children in developing the necessary **life skills** that enable them to lead a healthy and productive life. Life Skills Training include problem solving, decision-making, critical thinking, communication, self-awareness, interpersonal relationships, etc.

The local consultant we are looking for, will use his/her extensive experience of children and adolescent participation in health to consolidate and strengthen our work. Specifically he/she will:

- Assist the European Consultant in the development of a series of Training Modules on Life Skills Training using the Child-to-Child Approach
- Access Filipino researches on adolescent rural health issues and integrate into Training Modules
- Integrate Filipino cultural and indigenous concepts into Training Modules
- Conduct a consultation process with national and international health expertise to verify health content of Training Modules
- Pilot-test the Training modules in Barangays - with Community Adult (women) Facilitators, Youth and children in target barangays
- Conduct TOT on Life Skills Training Modules for project partners – LGU, DoH/CHD at Regional level
- Provide technical support to Regional offices already working with children and adolescents
- Support and oversee the publication process of Training modules including translation of Training Modules (into local languages) and type-setting etc.
- Travel extensively in project areas

Qualifications

At least 5 years professional experience in:

- Facilitating Children and Adolescent Participation in health and/or community development
- Designing, developing and carrying out participatory training for a range of stakeholders – including professionals, barangay representatives, young people and children
- Health Education and Promotion in particular, Life Skills development with Adolescents.
- Developing training manuals for a range of target audiences including barangay-level
- Leadership in project and/or programme development
- Barangay-based work with children and adolescents

Interested respondents should send an up-to-date resumé with a covering letter demonstrating how their experience matches the qualifications necessary for the post (failure to submit this letter will mean that your application is void) on or before **November 22, 2002**.

ONLY CANDIDATES WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

THE HRD OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmeña Building, 1991 Mabini Street
Malate, Manila
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- Willing to work under pressure

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You may send your resumé at:

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Libis, Quezon City

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- fluent in English, both oral and written communication
- with a pleasant personality
- has an existing or potentially large client network or client base

Candidates are requested to send their resumes with a passport size ID picture and character references to:

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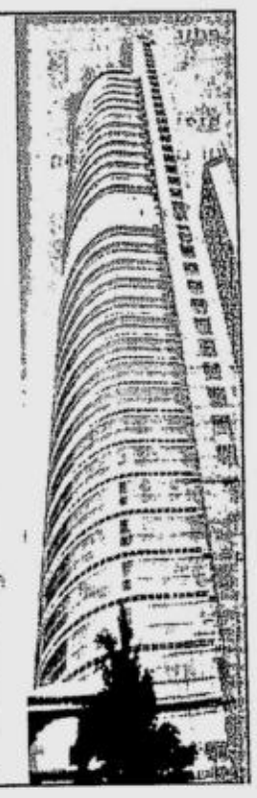

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Come in proper business attire with resume, transcript of records, and two 2 x 2 pictures at:

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Or send your resume to ***recruitment_pm@lycos.com***
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Interview and examination schedule is on
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Medical Officer IV	20	– 91; 92; 93; 95
Medical Officer III (Ren.)	18	– 621
Occ. Therapist III	18	– 1; 2; 3; 4; 5
Nurse I	10	– 718; 711; 712; 740; 742; 797; 820; 821; 900; 933
Mechanic III	9	– 1; 11
Clerk IV	8	– 37; 38
Nursing Attendant II	6	– 154; 179; 185; 199; 215; 244; 245; 247; 248; 260; 263; 277; 286; 289; 300
Utility Foreman	6	– 83
Accounting Clerk II	6	– 21
Electrician II	6	– 12
Cook II	5	– 19
Cook I	3	– 35; 37; 41; 42
Driver I	3	– 102; 106
Plumber I	3	– 8; 9
Carpenter I	3	– 25; 26
HRMAide	4	– 28; 30;32
Mechanic I	4	– 17; 19
Clerk I	3	– 179; 186; 187; 188
Utility Worker I	1	– 430; 617; 618; 622; 629; 630; 632
Public Relations Officer III	18	– 4

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- Experienced in import/export and remittance operations, not over 35 years old

Applicants must be business course graduates, computer literate, with excellent communication skills, able to work under minimum supervision, and with pleasing personality.

Send resume, transcript of records and photo, code cited on the envelope and application letter, to ***Box no. MK-105 c/o Classified Ads Dept., PDI, G/F Atrium of Makati, Makati City.***

'Make me *kopee*'

By LVA

I GOT my first job four years ago soon after I graduated from college. I was employed as one of the secretaries of a Japanese director in a trading firm in Makati. Lacking confidence typical of a fresh graduate, I wanted to resign from the company after barely a week. I had bluffed my way through the interview conducted by the Filipino manager when she asked me if I knew how to use the computer. I didn't know anything about computers, fax machines, photocopiers, electronic typewriters and even bundy clocks when I started working for the company. But my ignorance in office equipment was not the reason why I wanted out. I was to report directly to the Japanese director and his peculiar way of speaking English was getting in the way of our having effective communication.

In the middle of my first week at work, he handed me a document and asked me to make him a "*kopee*." I went to the pantry and came back with a freshly brewed mug of coffee. His amused face was enough to indicate that I did something wrong. Trying not to laugh, he asked the Filipino manager to explain to me what he wanted. He wanted me to make him a "copy" of the document he handed, not make him "coffee."

Although it was an honest mistake, I really felt I would never be able to understand him or any of his future instructions. I wanted to resign that day but then another new employee made a bigger mistake. It seems that the director told him to discuss "Sara Lee" with the manager. Thinking that "Sara Lee," the intimate wear company, was one of our clients, he approached the manager to discuss what our sales strategy will be with "Sara Lee." It turned out that the director wanted him to discuss his "salary" with the manager. The manager thought that blooper was funnier than mine. So I took that as a sign that I should remain with the company. I did not resign and I have not misunderstood my boss ever since.

WORKING OOPS!

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Administrative officer needs crash course on GMRC

By Jay-r

LAST April, the salaries of employees in my company were increased. All the employees were so excited about the good news. Each individual's salary was raised depending on the evaluation made by his or her superiors.

Some of my friends and I received substantial salary increases but many others didn't get as much because of their performance rating. Inexplicably, others got to know of our big salary increases and those who got minimal increases got mad at us. Rumors were spread that we got big raises because we were close to our superiors. Our superiors advised us to just ignore the intrigues.

But we continued to wonder how this could happen. We learned later on that our administrative officer was the one who leaked the information. Aren't salary adjustments confidential matters? Gosh, our administrative officer needs to review his GMRC (good manners and right conduct).

'Oh God!'

By Eowyn

I USED to work for a company whose headquarters was in one of the newest buildings along Paseo de Roxas. This building was designed to withstand major earthquakes but offices in the higher floors felt even the slightest tremors in magnified proportions. We have gotten so used to these tremors that we barely notice them.

One day, the walls started to shake and the rumbling seemed to last forever. The noisy office became suddenly silent as we waited for the tremors to stop. I know I was not the only person praying like it was the last day of my life. In the middle of this holy silence, we heard a woman's unholy shrieks, "Oh God! Ooooh God! Oh Ghodhhh!" A wave of annoyance and sniggers of laughter soon followed. Why? The woman did not sound a bit panicky; she sounded like she was on the verge of ecstasy. And we were sure she did not mean it that way.

An ungraceful exit

By Glenn

IN MY first job, I shared a small air-conditioned room with my boss. Being a senior manager, she was almost always in a business meeting with one of our clients. So most of the time, I had the room all to myself.

One very boring afternoon, I decided to play billiards on my PC shortly after my boss left for a meeting. I got so engrossed with the game that I didn't notice that my boss came back to get a folder she forgot to bring with her. I got so frightened that I couldn't hit the EXIT button with the mouse pointer. My boss saw the screen and frowned.

I must've blushed terribly because my boss pitied me and just warned me never to let her catch me again. After this incident, I memorized the shortcut keys for EXIT to make sure I would not be caught again.

Putting the boss on ice

By Tracy

I WORKED as an aircon technician at a prestigious media company. Everything there is state of the art, including the maintenance of the temperature of the whole building. But there was one big problem—it was hot in the big boss' office especially during summer time. Designers, engineers, consultants and technicians had endless discussions on how to solve the problem since the big boss is the building owner.

I was asked for a solution on what appeared to be an impossible problem. Installation of another fan coil unit or another aircon unit to allow air circulation inside the office was not possible because of architectural problems. So, we faced the grueling task of cleaning the filters and wye-strainers almost everyday, neglecting other rooms and offices.

When I resigned and worked at an ice plant and cold storage factory, I recounted this story to my colleagues. One of them, a simple utility guy with no engineering expertise, volunteered a simple solution, "*Dito na lang siya mag-opisina para wala siyang reklamo.*" All of them laughed and I smiled thinking it was literally one way to keep the boss' cool.

(Send contributions to peopleatwork @inquirer.com.ph)

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Associate Desktop Publishing Administrator

Reporting Arrangements:
The position directly reports to the Head, Printing and Graphics Section, Office of Administrative Services.

Description of Responsibilities:
The position is primarily responsible for planning, organizing and supervising the work of the Desktop Publishing Unit which provides typesetting, page layouting and film output services for ADB documents and publications. Specific responsibilities include:

- **Planning/Scheduling** - schedules activities in work area to meet overall deadlines for finished products; alerts Printing Assistant or Administration Officer to potential bottlenecks or other problems; plans the work within the Unit by reviewing work instructions, establishing work procedures and materials needed for production, determining quality levels and determining time standards and cost estimates for each type of work; assigns work to technicians and monitors rate of progress to ensure compliance with schedule dates; takes preventive measures to resolve production bottlenecks through coordination with own supervisor and other Printing Supervisors;
- **Supervision** - supervises the Unit by ensuring prompt attendance and punctuality of staff, ensuring that equipment and supplies are used for official purposes and ADB guidelines are strictly adhered to;
- **Equipment Maintenance** - reviews preventive maintenance program regularly with equipment supplier; plans and provides necessary time for preventive maintenance work in order to ensure all equipment and related facilities are maintained at top efficiency at all times; enforces safety regulations, good housekeeping practices, and preventive maintenance of equipment by ensuring that all subordinate staff are familiar with relevant work policies, procedures, and safety guidelines; ensures safe storage of client materials such as drafts, computer files, originals and their safe return after completion of work; and
- **Inventory Control** - monitors consumption of materials and ensures that stocks are maintained at efficient levels.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- four-year college degree in Electronic Publishing or Fine Arts;
- minimum of eight years related experience;
- proficiency in the operation of micro computers and DTP softwares; and
- knowledge of proofreading techniques and attention to detail.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit http://www.adb.org.

Apply online at http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp or send application, quoting Ref. No. EXT-SS02-022(4)-OAGS-PG, by 22 November 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

SGV & Co
A MEMBER PRACTICE OF ERNST & YOUNG GLOBAL
Quality In Everything We Do

SGV & Co., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, and the leading professional services firm in the country, invites suitable and qualified candidates to apply for the following positions:

Writers / Editors

- Graduate of Communication Arts, Journalism or English from a reputable school
- Has excellent command of written and spoken English
- Has excellent communication and analytical skills
- With at least one year experience in news or feature writing, copyediting or publishing
- Has good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude

Competitive compensation, benefits and world-class training and professional growth await successful applicants. To apply, mail resume, 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

Human Resources Group
5F, SGV 1 Bldg.
6760 Ayala Ave.
Makati City, Philippines

This post is for immediate hiring.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Business Course
- With excellent customer relations skills
- Familiar with the street network of Metro Manila

Responsibilities:

- Shall visit and monitor agents' sales performance
- Handles inquiries and complaints of agents

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

ELECTROWATT-EKONO
Jaakko Pöyry Group

ELECTROWATT-EKONO (PHILS.), INC., an Independent Engineering and Consulting Firm engaged in the Operation & Maintenance of POWER PLANTS, need to fill the following position:

POWER PLANT MANAGER

- Experienced in Power Plant Operations
- Experienced in Diesel Engine Maintenance
- Excellent command of English
- Computer literate
- Business knowledge
- Holder of a valid PME License
- Good Inter-Personal and Leadership skills
- Able to handle Multi-Tasks/Assignments

We offer Competitive Benefits Package with Multi-national Company.

Due to the urgency of our requirement, interested parties are requested to apply personally with most recent resumé and photo to:

EEPH Human Resources Department
Fifth Floor, King's Court I Building
2129 Pasong Tamo Street, 1231 Makati City
Tel. No.: 811-2741

Interviews will be scheduled immediately after review of applications.

Get your career off the ground.

JOIN THE BEST IN THE INDUSTRY!

With 41 call centers worldwide, Sykes is a global leader in providing customer and technical support services for many of the world's best known companies. We are also known to build fast track dynamic careers.

Due to our current expansion, we are looking for experienced Travel Consultants for one of the world's leading global travel, financial and network services provider.

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS

- Must at least possess a minimum of one year travel/airline experience
- Proficient in GDS such as Abacus, Galileo, Amadeus and/or other airline systems such as Speedwing, Gabriel and Sonic
- Willing to work in variable work shifts and extended hours
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Team player and with good understanding of customer Service

As these are **URGENT** requirements, all interested applicants are requested to personally submit their updated CV's from **Monday to Friday, 8:00AM-5:00PM** to our HRD.

SYKES℠

28F Robinson Summit Building
6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
E-mail: hrd@man.ph.sykes.com
Website: http://www.sykes.com

COME AND JOIN US!!!
As we elevate your career to the top!
We have vacancies for:

ASSISTANT HRD MANAGER

He shall be in charge of training and employee development for all levels in the organization in the areas of attitudinal, productivity and skills enhancement. The candidate must be knowledgeable of the labor code and can handle labor relations, CBA contracts, grievances and understands the value of core competencies. He shall assist in establishing recruitment, development and succession plans, developing compensation strategies, performance management and policy formulation.

The ideal applicant must have worked in a similar capacity for at least five (5) years from a medium-to-large scale business entity, with hands-on capability in MS Office and preferably with a master's degree in behavioral science.

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The candidate shall assist the Senior Manager for Administration and Accounting in the supervision and control over the accounting requirements of the company. He/she is expected to systematize accounting functions and procedures. He/she must have extensive experience in the areas of payroll and payable, credit and collection, cost accounting, general accounting and financial accounting in a computerized environment.

The ideal applicant must have worked in a similar capacity for at least three (3) years from a medium-to-large scale business entity, with hands-on capability in MS Office and preferably a Certified Public Accountant.

Qualified candidates for the above positions can expect a competitive compensation package. Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally or by mail post-marked not later than November 29, 2002 to:

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
Km. 23 West Service Road, South Super Highway Cupang, Muntinlupa City
(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchanges, near Alabang Hills Village)
Tel. # s 8423161 to 64 Fax # s 8093706/8093756

One of the world's largest multinational company headquartered in the US specializing in Global Forwarding/Brokerage and Logistics services is looking for high caliber individuals to fill-up the position of

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS

Qualifications:

1. College graduate
2. Has the sense of urgency in connection with answering queries from clients
3. Willing to learn and work under pressure
4. Willing to work beyond normal working hours
5. Proficient in MS Office Application (Excel, Word)
6. Good in oral and written communication in English
7. With pleasing personality and of good moral character
8. With two (2) years minimum experience on Forwarding Business would be an advantage

Please send your resumé at:
P.O. Box 8090
Parañaque Central Post Office
La Huerta, Parañaque City

This is an URGENT requirement. Deadline of application is on 25 November 2002.

We are part of a foreign owned fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) company with extensive operations in **Southeast Asia.** We are expanding into Vietnam, which will be directed by our **Manila Office.**

We are looking for a dynamic, hands-on person with strong drive for growth to fill in the position of:

GENERAL MANAGER

Responsibilities include:

- ✔ Developing and implementing sales and marketing programs
- ✔ Building up a dynamic sales organization
- ✔ Developing and establishing a distribution network
- ✔ Assisting in developing and implementing head office directions
- ✔ Establishing and maintaining good working relationship with all trade channels
- ✔ Develop advertising and marketing campaigns in coordination with appointed advertising agencies
- ✔ Managing business growth and profitability

Requirements:

- ✔ University graduate, preferably in Marketing Management, Business Administration, Accounting and related courses
- ✔ Minimum of Five (5) years experience in sales and marketing of fast moving consumer goods with the last two years in a Senior Managerial level
- ✔ Must be less than 45 years of age
- ✔ Fluent in spoken and written English
- ✔ Able to operate PC and standard Microsoft Software

To the successful candidates, we offer an attractive compensation package based on their qualifications and experience. The position likewise offers tremendous growth opportunities to the successful candidates.

Interested candidates, please send your resumé and current compensation package together with your latest 2x2 photograph to the address below:

ATTN: HR DIRECTOR
C/O PHIL. DAILY INQUIRER
Box No. MK 106
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

A PROGRESSIVE AND FAST GROWING SERVICE COMPANY
seeks the services of the following:

ASSISTANT HR MANAGER

- ☑ Female; 30-35 years old
- ☑ Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate
- ☑ At least 3 years experience in the same capacity with exposure on job evaluation and salary and wage administration

LEGAL COORDINATOR

- ☑ Female; 25-35 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Bachelor of Laws
- ☑ 2-3 years experience in paralegal work
- ☑ Computer literate

A COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION AND BENEFIT PACKAGE AWAIT THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

Please send your comprehensive resumé and recent 2x2 colored picture to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Box No. KA-030-02 AM
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Building
. 636 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila

We want you as a new recruit!

Duty Free Philippines

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

is presently in need of the following for the peak season...

Cashiers Sales Assistants

QUALIFICATIONS
Male 5'5 / Female 5'3, Single or Married
between 20-30 years old
College Graduate
With Cashiering Experience
Honest & Trustworthy
Hardworking & Willing to Render Overtime

REQUIREMENTS
Printed Resumé, 1 pc. 2x2 picture
Photocopy & Original of NBI Clearance
(less than 1 year old),
Birth Certificate & Transcript of Records

QUALIFICATIONS
Male 5'5 / Female 5'3,
Single or Married
between 20-30 years old
Finished 2 years in College/Vocational Course
Presentable, Able to Communicate in English

Applicants may apply personally at:

EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Floor, EHA Building
Duty Free Fiestamall
Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque City
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants

CHATEAU 1771 Ortigas
PORTICO 1771 Malate
SENTRO 1771 Makati
Outdoor Cafe Ortigas & Malate

To all **Curious Souls** and **Serious Foodies**
who want to be of Service to others,
The Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants
is in search of:

Customer Care Specialists

We need people who are willing to go
an extra mile for others.
We want Active, Mature, Creative individuals.
Those who have done part time job
or volunteer work are most welcome to apply.

We will train you in all aspects of our operations.
With three outlets in three different parts of the city,
we promise that you will never have a dull day.

Interested?
Send your resumé, 2x2 photo, transcript of records,
certificates of employment or clearance
from previous employer to:

HR MANAGEMENT GROUP
24th Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City
Libis, Quezon City

* Position available up to December 2, 2002.

Rustan's

urgently needs...

FINANCIAL SUPERVISOR

- Between 21-35 yrs. old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- Must be results-oriented and highly analytical
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular work hours

DIRECT MAIL / AD and PROMO COORDINATOR

- Male or female, between 21-25 yrs. old
- Graduate of any (4) four-year business course
- With one or two years experience in marketing
- With good background in computer programming
- Specializes in events

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
Human Resources & Organization
Development Division
G/F, El Mercasol Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

We are young. We are dynamic. We seek new blood.

Be part of our team.

TECHNICAL SALES EXECUTIVE

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Must be a graduate of Computer Science, CoE, ECE, Sales and Marketing or equivalent
- ✓ 1 - 3 years sales experience, preferably in the sales of servers, RAID systems and storage solutions
- ✓ Possesses strong negotiation skills, solid knowledge in Technical Selling, and has the ability to make a good technical sales presentation
- ✓ Must be proactive and willing to do field work

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER

- ✓ Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- ✓ Must be a graduate of Computer Science, CoE, ECE or equivalent
- ✓ Knowledgeable in different Operating Systems, (Windows NT Server, Windows 2000 Server, Novell Netware, 95, 98, NT, ME, 2000, XP, and Linux) setup and configuration
- ✓ Experienced in high-end computers, servers, RAID and storage configuratons with troubleshooting

PCTrends

Interested applicants, please send resumé at:
7 Francisco Court, 1st Street, New Manila, Quezon City
or call Tel. Nos.: 727-6449; 727-6142; 727-6217
or E-mail us at: hrd@pctrends.com.ph

HARIBON FOUNDATION

Haribon Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit and membership organization committed to nature conservation through community empowerment and scientific excellence. Organized in 1972 as a bird watching society. Haribon is known to be the pioneer environmental organization in the Philippines.

We invite dedicated professionals to join our growing family to occupy the following positions:

SENIOR RESEARCHER

- Master of Science in Biology preferably major in Marine Biology or its equivalent experience.
- Certified open water SCUBA diver
- Equipped with above average oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to work with small-scale fishers and rural communities
- At least three (3) years of relevant work experience particularly on coral reef monitoring

JUNIOR RESEARCHER

- Bachelor of Science in Biology preferably major in Marine Biology or its equivalent experience
- Certified open water SCUBA diver
- Equipped with above average oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to work with small-scale fishers and rural communities
- At least (1) year of relevant work experience particularly coral reef monitoring

Due to urgency of requirements, qualified applicants may send their Curriculum Vitaé through mail or e-mail to the head office on or before **30 November 2002.**
Only short-listed candidates will be notified for an interview.

Human Resource Department (HRD)
Attention: The HR Officer
HARIBON Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc.
4th Flr., Fil Garcia Tower, 140 Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street
Teacher's Village, Quezon City 1101
E-mail address: rv_inovero@yahoo.com
For inquiries call: 436-4363 / 433-3476

TASCO, INC.

Distributor of Imported Oils, Tires and Tiles and authorized distributor of MARIWASA, SMT and TOTO products seeks:

SALES OFFICER

Motor Oils/Tires Division

- 25 to 35 years old
- With productive experience in field of selling of consumer items;
- Honest and hardworking, with excellent communication skills;
- Must have valid driver's license.

SALES OFFICER

Interiors Division

- Male/Female, 21 to 28 years old;
- College Degree Holder preferably Architecture, Interior Design, Engineering or related business courses;
- Proficient in both written and oral English;
- Computer literate;
- Honest and Hardworking;
- With previous selling experience in the construction industry, either for projects or dealers, is an advantage.

Send your resumé and transcript of records to:

No. 70 20th Avenue, Murphy
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 913-01-02 to 04

EVERPURE

EVERPURE IS THE WORLD'S LEADING FOOD SERVICE WATER TREATMENT PROVIDER.

CWS PHILIPPINES INC IS THE SOLE AGENT FOR EVERPURE PRODUCTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND IS SEEKING QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SENIOR TECHNICAL / SALES
OFFICE MANAGER
SERVICE TECHNICIANS

FAX CV TO 810-7281 OR EMAIL TO djlane1@attglobal.net

WATER YOU CAN TRUST

Rustan

IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF

Director for Systems and Merchandise, Planning & Control (MPC)

Qualifications:

- ✧ Graduate of a four-year or five-year course in Industrial Engineering, Computer Engineering.
- ✧ Preferably with a post-graduate degree (MBA or MA/MS)
- ✧ Minimum of five (5) years experience in retail business process (buying, selling and logistics); particularly overseeing international and local buying responsibilities
- ✧ Extensive exposure in:
  - Business and Support Process Improvement and Institutionalization
  - IT Project Management
  - Logistics Management Process
  - Retail Cycle Management
  - Merchandising Performance Benchmarking
- ✧ Strong international exposure in retailing; highly knowledgeable in the acquisition and distribution processes of mid to luxury levels of merchandise
- ✧ Must have worked for at least 5 years in a senior managerial capacity
- ✧ Must possess an outstanding ability and creativity in identifying opportunities for improvement in process, cycle time, accuracy
- ✧ Must possess exceptional fluency in both oral, written communication and can develop, mentor team members
- ✧ Must be able to deal well with all levels in the organization

RUSTAN'S HEAD OFFICE
Human Resources & Organization Development Division
G/F, El Mercasol Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

Beauty Consultant

Experience a whole new, fun job at a high-end retail store specializing in hair care products and treatments

Requirements:

- Attractive female, preferably 22-35 years old
- At least 2 years in college, paramedical courses an advantage
- Experience in retail sales highly favored
- Willing to be trained
- Proficient in oral English
- Pleasant, dynamic and talkative
- Hardworking and trustworthy

Please send your bio-data with recent photo and contact number to Lisse et Cie, Inc. 6239-E, Mañalac Street, Barangay Poblacion, Makati City.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A leading *indoor and outdoor signage company* is urgently in need of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Must be a College Graduate
- Outstanding interpersonal, oral communications and presentation skills
- Must have 2 to 3 years experience in marketing indoor and outdoor signages
- Hardwork, result-oriented, must posses effective communication skills

COMPUTER GRAPHICS ARTISTS

- Preferably graduate of Fine Arts, Major in Advertising
- 2 to 3 years experience in computer graphics design
- Proficient in the latest versions of Photoshop, CorelDraw, Freehand, Illustrator, etc.
- Must be highly creative, innovative and must have a passion for excellence

Please contact: Ms. Salomon at 531-1694 / 533-1568 to 69

A Multinational Pharmaceutical Company is in search for qualified professionals to fill up the position of:

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE

- ➢ Male or female, 20 to 27 years old
- ➢ College degree holder, preferably in the field of Science
- ➢ Must be computer literate
- ➢ Proficient in oral and written communication
- ➢ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

All interested applicants are requested to send their resumé, with a copy of transcipt of records and 2x2 colored picture to:

ICN Philippines, Inc.
W902-A Tektite Building, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

FLY ACE CORPORATION, a firm engaged in the importation and distribution of quality food, health and beauty products for supermarkets and institutional use, is looking for qualified professionals that will fill our vacancy.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- ✔ Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- ✔ Graduate of any 4 year course
- ✔ Must have strong interpersonal skills
- ✔ Must have an excellent communication skills and results-oriented
- ✔ A sales experienced in Supermarket and Grocery for at least one year is an advantage
- ✔ Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS / TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- ✔ Male, not more than 30 years old
- ✔ Preferably a graduate of any computer related course
- ✔ With experience in object-oriented programming
- ✔ Good Analytical Skills
- ✔ Experience in PC and Network Trouble shooting
- ✔ Preferably with experience in Inventory & Warehouse Management System
- ✔ Can work with minimum supervision
- ✔ Can generate fast and accurate on time reports

Bring resumé with picture to:
Chinatown Steel Tower G-17 Asuncion Street, Binondo, Manila
corner San Nicolas Street, Monday to Friday 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
E-mail address: info@flyacecorp.com

A Progressive Construction Materials Company needs:

RESIDENT MINE MANAGER

A Licensed Mining Engineer with extensive management and supervisory experience of all the technical financial and administrative aspects of open pit mine and crusher operations. (Rodriguez, Rizal Assignment)

EQUIPMENT ENGINEER

Licensed Mechanical Engineer with or without experience to handle heavy equipment maintenance and operations. Background in machine shop operations preferred. (Meycauayan Assignment)

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

With or without experience for (Head Office Assignment) diligent, hardworking and conscientious.

H.E. MECHANICS, ACCOUNTING CLERKS, GEODETIC ENGINEERS

Apply in person or send Resumé to:

PACIFIC CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC.
H.R. Department, Room 304
15 West Avenue, Quezon City
(Atop Salsaki Restaurant beside Starbucks Coffee)
Email: pacific@itextron.com

A leading multinational transport company is URGENTLY in need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the position of:

PERSONNEL MANAGER

- ➢ holder of a degree in Psychology or Human Resource Management from a reputable university
- ➢ must have at least 2 to 3 years experience in the same capacity preferably in a related industry
- ➢ possesses leadership qualities

An attractive compensation package awaits the successful candidate.

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé indicating the minimum salary desired, latest photo, telephone number/s and other credentials not later than **November 23, 2002** at:

P.O. Box 7748
Domestic Airport Post Office
Metro Manila, Philippines

PSBank

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

The CONSUMER AND RETAIL BANK OF CHOICE invites outstanding individuals for the following areas:

Metro Manila: Navotas North Bay • Banaue • Ortigas • Malabon • Muntinlupa • Legaspi Village, Makati • Pasay Road, Makati • Gilmore St., New Manila • Antipolo • Pasig - Shaw Blvd. • Marcos Highway, Marikina • Wilson St., San Juan • Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Provincial: Naga • Tacloban • Olongapo • Tagbilaran

BRANCH HEAD
- Significant and extensive experience in branch operations and marketing
- Achieves business targets consistently
- Values customer service and is client centered
- Dynamic and results oriented
- Proven leadership capabilities

CASHIER
- Extensive experience in cash operations
- Seasoned in supervising Tellers and New Accounts staff
- Values customer service and is client centered

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of a 4-year college course
- Experience in tellering and/or new accounts preferred
- Excellent communication skills
- Assertive, with strong customer service orientation
- Highly proficient in MS Office

SECURITIES & INSURANCE DIVISION HEAD
(Head Office)
- Extensive experience in credit operations, process streamlining and controls
- Significant exposure in credit and operational risks
- Excellent analytical skills
- Keen attention to details
- Proven leadership capabilities

IT / AUDIT OFFICER
(Head Office)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Extensive experience in executing Information Technology Audit programs
- Ability to develop and implement Information Technology Audit techniques
- Technical proficiency in computer systems, analysis, security control and programming languages

TRAINING HEAD
(Head Office)
- Extensive experience in managing training programs in Customer Service, Leadership and Supervisory Skills, Sales and Marketing, Computer Software Applications, Team Building and Organizational Development
- Exposure to Management at a Senior level
- Experience in managing a Training Department
- Excellent supervisory and administrative skills; dynamic & self directed

Send your comprehensive resumé together with a recent 2"x 2" color picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
Recruitment Department
7th Floor, PSBank Center
777 Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño St., Makati City
Fax No.: 885-8347
email: Recruitment@psbank.com.ph (use APPLICATION as subject line)
Deadline for submission is **Friday, 22 November 2002**
Previous respondents need not reply

An international organization based in Tokyo with branches in the U.S. and U.K. needs qualified and competent staff to work in its planned branch office in Manila. Applicants should be proficient in English conversation and writing. Must be computer literate. Please send your resumé ASAP to:

Attention: **Emily M. Guevara**
International Internship Programs
2-22-21 Nishikata
Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8419 Japan
Fax No. +81-3-3818-4481
E-mail: recruit@internship.or.jp

All resumés will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Interviews will be announced later.

MegaBoards Corporation

An Outdoor Advertising Company
is in need of the following personnel:

***Project Coordinator**
***Executive Assistant**
***Civil Engineer**

Requirements:
1. Male or Female
2. College graduate from a reputable school
3. No experience needed

Apply in person:
Bring your resume with 2x2 ID Picture 6th Floor
Kings Court Building A, Pasong Tamo
Makati City

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources leads the field in creating and facilitating global trade between buyers and suppliers. We provide worldwide trading partners with the right information, at the right time, in the right format.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Project Officer

You will provide assistance in handling project management tasks, content quality control and Corporate Intranet site maintenance working closely with the different development teams in a multi-cultural setting.

A Bachelor's degree preferably in Journalism/ Computer Science, minimum of 2 years experience in IT industry knowledgeable with the Internet and web operations such as layout/ design, web publishing and solid background in hand-coded HTML are necessary qualifications. Candidates with good computer programming background, excellent communication skills and strong leadership and project management skills with a good eye for details will have a distinct advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international and dynamic work environment awaits the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: gshr@globalsources.com
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

JC PRIME *Management Corporation*

As part of our expansion, we invite high caliber, motivated professional and dynamic team player with experience to join our team as:

MARKETING ASSOCIATES

Qualifications:
- Male or Female 30-45 years of age
- At least college level with successful sales track record and relevant experience in client-based activities.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal relations and coordination skills with sound business sense and passion for financial excellence
- Minimum 2 yrs., sales experience in car, pension and insurance

Compensation packages: P10,000.00 Allowance plus commission

Interested applicants may send or hand carry their Comprehensive Resumé, Recent 2x2 picture, Transcript of Records, NBI Clearance to:

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION DEPT.
JC Prime Management Corporation
Unit 1205 Cityland Herrera Tower Valero
cor. V.A. Rufino (formerly Herrera) Sts.
Brgy. Bel-Air, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 753-4546 and 753-45 47

We will only respond to qualified applicants.

A leading multinational transport company is **URGENTLY** in need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the position of:

MARKETING MANAGER

- holder of a business degree preferably from a reputable university
- must have at least 3 to 4 years experience in the same capacity preferably in a related industry
- possesses leadership qualities

An attractive compensation package **plus a brand new car** awaits the successful candidate.

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé with photo, telephone number/s and other credentials not later than **November 23, 2002** at:

P.O. Box 7748
Domestic Airport Post Office
Metro Manila, Philippines

Where you find the best.

JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

RADIOWEALTH FINANCE COMPANY, INC.

is looking for dynamic & highly competent individuals to strengthen our expanding operations in the financing industry.

ASST. BRANCH MANAGER TRAINEES

Male or female. 30-35 yrs. old. Accounting graduate or any business related course. With commendable scholastic records. Computer literate. Must have a successful supervisory track record in financing, lending or consumer banking. Proficient in oral/written communication. Personable with good interpersonal skills. Willing to be assigned in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

COLLECTOR/CREDIT INVESTIGATORS

Single. Male. 21-27 yrs. old. Accounting graduate or any business related course. With good oral/written communication skills. Personable with good interpersonal skills. Willing to be assigned in the provinces. Must know how to drive a motorcycle.

SENIOR AUDITORS

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Head Office, 3/F Guevent Bldg.,
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Tel. Nos. 531-2354, 531-0423, 531-0418
e-mail: rfcmis@netasia.net
Or you may apply personally at any of our local branch nearest you:
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Unit S24 2/F Sunvar Plaza
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Makati City, 1200

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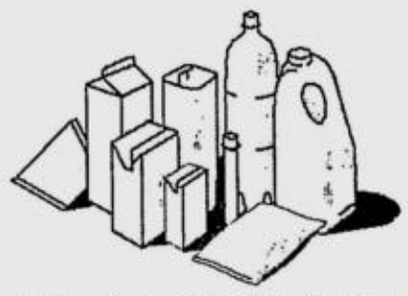

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- Experience in software deployment and enterprise management, current
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- CCNA, current or literate
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Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

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Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Please indicate position applied for and present salary (if employed)

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- 21 to 30 years old
- Accounting graduate or any four year course
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- With excellent communication skills

Applicants must send their comprehensive resume with picture and transcript of record to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
FIRST UNITED TRAVEL, INC.
Ground Floor, Maripola Building, 109 Perea Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

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- college graduate
- single

Please forward your application to:

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- Proficient in MS Office and the Internet
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules, including graveyard shifts

TRAINERS- MORTGAGE AND FINANCE (TR-MF)

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-Excellent customer service skills, proactive, team player, and willing to work long hours, if required.

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- Graduate of any 4 or 5 year college course
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- High organization and planning skills with excellent business, presentation, negotiation, negotiation and diplomacy skills
-Excellent customer service skills, pro-active, team player and willing to work long hours, if required.

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- College graduate of BS Applied Mathematics major in Operational Research, Industrial Engineering, Statistics, Math or Economics
- 1-3 years relevant QA experience, with data analysis and exposure
- Knowledgeable in statistics and documentation
- Assertive, team player and willing to work on a shifting schedule
- Working knowledge of Standardization Programs and QA tools
- Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, Visio or any charting tool

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are requested to come on Monday, November 18, at 2 pm or on Tuesday, November 19 at 9 am with their Resumes to: SYKES ASIA, INC., 23F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City and look for Romina Alcruz.
APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND JOB CODES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.
Highly competitive compensation package and training await those who will be accepted. Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company. We are not a recruitment agency.

TRANSLATORS REQUIRED: ENGLISH TO MANDARIN

An international online publisher based in Makati requires experienced English-to-Chinese translators (Mandarin simplified characters). The ideal applicant should meet the criteria below:

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- Excellent English writing skills
- A good knowledge of international business and finance, and a strong interest in current international affairs
- Computer literate

Successful applicants will receive extensive project training and will become part of a high-caliber data production unit.

Applicants should submit their detailed resumé, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than **November 25, 2002** to the **Administration Manager** at the address below:

Job Code: Chinese Translator
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
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Interested applicants are requested to submit their CV's to Sykes Asia, Inc. at the 28th Floor Robinson Summit Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City. You can also e-mail us at hrd@man.ph.sykes.com. Applications without JOB CODES will not be processed

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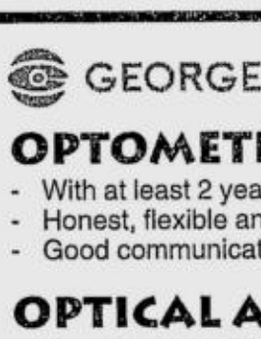

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See us in your proper business attire with 2 pcs. (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on **November 18, 19, 20 and 21** (Monday to Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring extra ID and the clipping of this ad.

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- Must have at least 1 year experience in sales or marketing activities
- Must have a pleasing personality with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Driving skills is an advantage

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR
- Between 28-35 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Must have at least 3 years supervisory experience in various aspects of Human Resources Management and Development
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RENTAL SALES AGENTS
- Between 21-26 years old
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- With pleasing personality
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
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Due to urgency of these requirements, applicants are requested to come personally with their resume, transcript of records and 2x2 picture from Mondays thru Fridays, 8.00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

G & S TRANSPORT CORPORATION
2nd Floor Guevent Commercial Center
52 Libertad corner M. Cruz St.,
Mandaluyong City
E-mail: hrd@avis.com.ph

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

Sunday PEOPLEatWORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

Present a FABulous 'you' to get the interviewer's nod

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Regina Galang Reyes

(This is the fifth installment of the article, "Make brand 'you' a hit in the job market.")

A GOOD resumé and a professional image will get you through the door of the company you are applying for. You are now seated in front of your interviewer who will decide whether or not you will get the job. Then, you open your mouth and disaster strikes. You mumble, fumble and grumble as you answer the interviewer's questions. You are totally at her mercy as she steers you through the landmines of her mind-boggling questions. You get out the door as quickly as you got in. And your chances of landing that dream job go zilch.

Nightmare

Has this happened to you? Is this a nightmare that you dread might come true when you go to your job interview? You know you've got to get past this final test, like Harry Potter in the Goblet of Fire, to land your dream job. What can you do? Shall you, like Harry, seek your friends' help in uncovering the secret to passing interviews or shall you rely on your wizard mentors who may turn out to be your enemies? Be not afraid! All you have to do is to ask the successful salesperson next door about the secret to an effective sales presentation.

Sales techniques

Using proven sales techniques to market brand "you" can help you achieve your job objective. During your job interview, you can use effective sales presentation techniques so that you can present yourself in the best light possible to the interviewer. Bear in mind that not all interviewers are skillful interviewers. Some are experts in spotting the skills of the interviewee and drawing out his hidden talents. Some just meander on hoping to hit the gold vein of talents of the interviewee. If you fall into the hands of the latter kind of interviewer and you don't have a game plan, chances are, the interview will most likely "bomb out." This is where the salesperson's selling techniques can save your day.

Benefit selling

According to Charles Futrell, author of "Fundamentals of Selling," a most powerful selling technique used by successful salespeople today is "benefit selling." In benefit selling, the salesperson relates a product's benefits to the customer's needs using the product's features and advantages as support. This technique is often referred to as the FAB selling technique. FAB refers to features, advantages and benefits. Features refer to the physical characteristics of a product. Advantages refer to the performance characteristics of a product that describe how it can be used or will help the buyer. Benefits refer to the favorable results the buyer receives from the product because of a particular advantage that has the ability to satisfy a buyer's needs.

Using FAB

For example, you are selling *Puti* soap that is shaped like a dog bone, has a translucent white color, smells like Calvin Klein perfume, and contains the ingredient *kula*. If you merely present these features to the buyer, he will ask, "So what? How will that soap benefit me?" Thus, in addition to the product features, you have to relate the product's advantages to the buyer's needs.

Discuss what are the advantages of *Puti* soap. Tell the buyer that it is easy to hold since it is shaped like a dog bone. Say that it is easy to spot dirt on the soap since it is white and translucent. Emphasize that it smells good and has a skin-whitening ingredient, *kula*.

However, a discussion on the features and advantages alone will not push the potential buyer to buy the soap. There is a maxim in sales that states that "people do not buy products, they buy the benefits the products can bring." So, point out the benefits of the product to the buyer. In this case, you can explain that the buyer can take a shower faster (and get to his date faster) since the soap will not slip in his hands. Discuss how the whiteness of the soap will give the buyer a feeling of cleanliness and how the Calvin Klein perfume scent will attract the attention of his date. Finally, stress that he will have more girls to date because, like Michael Jackson, his dark skin will whiten with *kula*. Once these benefits are clear to the buyer, he will surely grab your soap.

Effective presentation

How can you apply this FABulous technique in a job interview? Before going to the interview, come up with a list of your features, advantages and benefits. Features cover the extent of your knowledge, skills, attitudes, habits and values. For example, your list can include:

PRESENT/H4

Multi-awarded editor, bishop of young workers join Sunday PaW

TUNAY

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CANTILLAS

TWO stalwarts, one in media and the other in education, join Sunday People at Work starting next Sunday to write twin Reflections for the Working Soul.

Teresa Reyes Tunay will write the layperson's perspective while Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD will write the religious' interpretation of the Sunday Gospel as it applies to work and the workplace.

Tunay is a multi-awarded and seasoned media journalist who has written and edited for various newspapers and magazines for the past 34 years, among them, Woman Today, Family Today, WT Special, PAL's inflight Mabuhay Magazine, Manila Times, Life Today Magazine, People Magazine, Times Journal, Bulletin Today, The Tribune, Fina Magazine and the Philippine News Agency. She is presently the editor-in-chief of Blue Collar Magazine of which she is a co-founder. Blue Collar garnered a Catholic Mass Media citation for Special Publications in 1991.

A "survivor" in mainstream journalism, Tunay started writing along contemplative lines in the early 80s, using the pen name "Magdalena Torres" for her column Confessions in Life Today Magazine. She has continued to use the same pseudonym to write *Sa Totoo Lang*, a column in the vernacular in Blue Collar Magazine. Now revealing the identity of "Magdalena Torres" for the first time, Teresa says she used a pen name because "what is written is more important than who is writing it."

In the mid-90s, Teresa wrote Reflections for the weekly Sunday mass guide, Missalette under her own name—something she never imagined she could ever do. Her Reflections are remembered for their fresh insights delivered in an easy style and in a language anyone could grasp. Devoid of bookish encumbrances, they were aimed at underscoring the relevance of scripture wisdom in contemporary everyday life of the ordinary man. A professed member of the Secular Order of the Discalced Carmelites, Teresa gets invited to give talks on prayer and Carmelite spirituality.

A native of Naga, Cebu, Bishop Cantillas is presently the Bishop of Maasin, Southern Leyte, where he has served since 1998. In Maasin, he also serves as president and chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph College.

A bishop since 1995, he holds the distinction of being the youngest to be ordained to the episcopate. A priest for 23 years, his service has focused on education, workers and the youth.

He is a board member of the Technical Education and Skill Development Authority (TESDA), a post he has held since 1994. He is bishop promoter of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) Philippines and vice-chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Youth (ECY) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Bishop Cantillas is co-founder of Blue Collar Magazine and is its editorial director. Prior to his present assignments, he has held several key positions in Don Bosco Technical College, among them the post of rector of the college in Mandaluyong City.

His early education prepared him for his present work with workers and the youth. He earned his degree in Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education from the Don Bosco Seminary College in Laguna and his masteral degree in Industrial Education from the Technological University of the Philippines. He trained in Singapore in the Colombo Plan Staff College and then, in Germany on technical training systems. He also underwent a course on negotiations at the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard USA.

Avid readers of People at Work are invited to read their first twin reflections this coming Sunday to discover insights that will provide a spiritual dimension and meaning to their world of work.

How do you deal with love at work?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I always thought it was stupid to date people at work. But that was before I met my girlfriend. I know there are risks and that there are plenty of fish in the sea, but I don't want to lose this one. I feel stupid writing to you but it's less embarrassing than writing to Dear Abby!

In Love With More Than My Job

Speaking of fish, here's one that really got away. A German man withdrew his life savings from the bank in order to deposit it in a bank that paid higher interest. On leaving his old bank, he put the bag of cash on the roof of his car while he unlocked the door. You guessed it. He drove off with the bag on the roof. So much for life savings.

Well, relationships at work are like that. One minute you're sitting on top of a fortune, the next minute you're scrambling to pick up the pieces. Love HAS blossomed successfully amidst the cubicles, but to make it work, you've got to proceed very carefully. The questions below will give you some guidelines. You'll find more in "Office Romance" by Dennis Powers (Amacom, 1999).

1. What happens if the relationship ends? You may well be the exception to the rule, but the fact is: most relationships don't last. So here's a simple test: count the number of former lovers with whom you're still on speaking terms. If the number for either of you is less than 50percent, you may want to reconsider.

2. Do you report to each other? Work is full of little fish and bigger fish. Whenever you leave your school to date up or down at work, you hook a host of potential problems. And the problems aren't just internal to your relationship: coworkers are quick to perceive favoritism when a boss dates a subordinate. So unless you like stress and nasty politics, avoid dating your boss or a direct report.

3. Full disclosure or keep it under wraps? Where corporate policies are against relationships at work keeping it a secret may be required. In the absence of such a policy it's probably not worth the energy to try and hide your relationship.

4. Can you control your hormones between 8 and 5? Sure, you're discreet enough to refrain from holding hands and making moon eyes in the hallways. But have you thought about your email? I've heard of several "daters" recently whose private email were picked up by company filters. So be discreet: don't drop each other a line on the company machines.

5. Which is more important to you: the job or the relationship? This is as sexy as requesting a prenuptial agreement just before the wedding. But it's important to keep your priorities straight: some companies routinely transfer one person when they learn that two employees are dating.

When in doubt, think of our German friend. Regardless of a high interest level, it's sometimes better to pass on a new relationship.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: If you felt attracted to someone at work, what would you do? (1,312 responses)

—Ask him/her out on a date, 15.7%

—Take a cold shower, 26.3%

—Try to build a friendship, 57.9%

We got a ton of e-mail and faxes from people happily married to a coworker. But our winning entry was a bit more cautious. Jenna H. in Ottawa, Ontario wrote, "You only have to have your possessions returned through interoffice mail once to learn that even the most promising office romance can end in Dumpsville. The result: uncomfortable silences in the elevator, lethal looks at the water cooler, and having to face off against one's ex across the boardroom table. While conventional wisdom dictates that dipping one's pen in the company ink (and I mean this in the most non-gender-specific way) is a sure road to problems, most of us want someone to be with when the work day is done. We want the brass ring more than we want the gold watch. And that's as it should be. So proceed with caution, respect and professionalism."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

sunday INQUIRER magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

November 17, 2

What happens when one of the country's shapeliest sexpots decides she wants to sing, as well? She makes a sizzling video that almost gets pulled off the airwaves—but still sells records

Patricia Javier

Too Hot to Han

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Val Handumon

Y caramba!

And you thought Kylie was hot.

MTV viewers nearly swallowed their bubblegum when Patricia Javier's steamy new dance pop video "*Siya Ba Ang Dahilan?*" hit the screens. Directed by Lyle Sacris, the video shows PJ in an autoerotic solo bedroom romp apparently clad only in a rumpled bedsheet (although eagle-eyed viewers can attest that she was wearing her undies). It was obviously intended to showcase her newfound role as a singer, while playing it safe by capitalizing on her, um, established strengths.

Those self-same viewers might be surprised to learn that what they are seeing is, in fact, already the PG version. Apparently, the people at MTV Asia disapproved the original director's cut for "*Siya Ba*," deeming it too hot even by their generally loose standards. According to some accounts, they initially nixed the PG version too, relenting only when rival music video stations began airing it and requests began pouring in.

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Martial artist Alvin Aguilar's greatest weapon is his heart

Patricia ...from page 1

Pussies! These days, music videos are all about ass anyway (think Christina Aguilera's "Dirty," the aforementioned Kylie Minogue, every jiggy-jiggy rap video). Patricia's music video debut merely let it all hang out a bit further. Besides, it's not like people who subsist on a steady diet of "Jackass," "The Osbournes" and "Beavis and Butthead" have any sensibilities left to offend.

Be that as it may, the people at EMI Philippines, Patricia's label, are reportedly working on a GP version, although one wonders if they shot enough footage that won't steam up the, uh, boob tube.

PJ herself is nonplussed.

To begin with, as people who have seen her "Typhoon Patring" TV commercial for Beer na Beer doubtless know, this video vixen knows where her talents lie. And it doesn't hurt that Patricia looks like she was designed by a committee composed of horny 13-year-old boys: Barbie-slim and yet, paradoxically, voluptuous. Hers is the kind of body that feminists insist doesn't exist in real life. They may even be half-right: Patricia Javier is equal parts fantasy figure and real-life girl. This is what her video exploits to the hilt.

"Maybe, in their opinion, for a local music video, it's too much," she says. "But if you look at foreign music videos, *grabe din*, so why are they being shown?"

She added that she's happy with the video, even with MTV's initial disapproval, since it worked to her advantage in the end, sending the curious to record stores to check out her CD, which includes the director's cut of "*Siya Ba*" as a bonus.

Actually, she's not half bad as a singer, although obviously, from a marketing standpoint, it's the total package that counts. EMI's promotional boost for the record includes such items as a life-size poster and a contest where the grand prize will be a dinner date with PJ herself.

"Nowadays, the viewers and the buyers of the album are wiser," says Patricia. "More on the visual *sila, gusto nila nakikita nila ang mga* performer (They want to be able to see the performer)." And how.

Patricia made her screen debut more than three years ago in Peque Gallaga's "*Ang Kabit ni* Mrs. Montero," a loose adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover." Since then, she has acted steadily in films and television, although she has had the greatest success as a male fantasy figure. The July issue of FHM, in which she appeared on the cover, was reportedly the magazine's best-selling issue. It also contained a bonus CD single which was well-received, prompting PJ's full-bore assault on the music scene.

Not bad, considering that she's been at it for less than a year. Just a few months ago, she announced to a dumbfounded press that she had just returned from the US, where she had been taking singing lessons with smooth jazz diva Kevyn Lettau. Now she's set to release a second single, with accompanying video, natch, appropriately titled "*Baka Lasing Ka Lang*."

"PJ" is actually a break-up album, recorded right after Patricia split with her boyfriend.

"*Maraming makaka*-relate *dito* (A lot of people can relate to this), especially the broken-hearted," she says. "*Kasi* at the time *na ginagawa ko 'to, wala akong* boyfriend, *kaya* feel *na* feel *ko habang nagre*-recording *ako* (A lot of people can relate to this because I was also heartbroken when I recorded it)."

The experience of making the album proved therapeutic, she adds.

"For a while, I forgot about it. I didn't want to be sad. *So nawalan ako ng* boyfriend, but I'm doing something new that I can really love."

Purrr...: Typhoon Patring makes land fall

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PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN SNAPSHOTS
A book signing event by Christian Perez of his volume "Catalogue of Philippine Stereoviews" will take place on Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Alliance Francaise de Manille in Bel-Air II, Makati. The book contains an impressive number of illustrated stereoviews on the Philippines and the Philippine-American war that make for significant visual references for anyone interested in Philippine history.
For more of This Week, see page 7

Poetry

Physics

While crossing
Panguil Bay
I got totally absorbed
About quantum physics.
The panoramic view
Of Mount Malindang
Just breezed through
My head that day.
All throughout the trip
I felt like a standing wave
Seeking the delicate
Path of lunar cycle.
By extracting
A beam of light
From the sea,
Am I creating reality?
I wondered...
As the ferry drew
Nearer to Ozamiz
The rusting carcass
Of half-submerged ship
Appeared and struck me
As a paradoxical cube:
A wreck and a monument
Framed by my chosen moment.
I felt whole and present tense
Upon touching shore.
The universe in me
Turned dust and divine,
Totally converted
To love and the freedom
To love unconditionally.

Victor Peñaranda

Kaboom!

Mahirap pagpagin
ang butil-butil na buhanging
sumaboy sa itim na bag na balat.
Bumalot na rin sa balat kong maitim.

Ngayong gabi na,
hindi na nga makita-kita
ang alikabok na hininga
napupuwing pa rin ako.

Parang sinasakal pa ang lalamunan ko.
Iniipit, sing-sikip ng sinasakyang jeep
na humaharurot.
Iniiwan
ang pinanggalingan ko.
Kinakalimutan.

Walang mas mabuting gawin
kundi gampanan nang lubos
ang papel namin bilang mga pasahero.

Wala na ring saysay ang kumibo.
Mas maingay ang iringan
ng sanlaksang sasakyan.
Sa pagharurot pa,
amoy krudo na
ang hininga naming lahat.

Mahirap nang magpagpag.
Ilang kilometro pa, sing-pino na
ng pulbura ang hangin.
Magaspang na liha
ang mga siko namin.
Isang maling kiskis,
KABOOM!

Zosimo Quibilan, Jr.

Soltera

Tinatanong mo pa rin hanggang ngayon
kung bakit hindi pa ako nag-aasawa.
Sa pagkakataong ito, hindi na ako natawa.
Luminga akong naghanap ng mga sagot:
Baka nakalista sa aking mga tula.
Baka nakaguhit sa aking mga pintura.
Baka naka-eksena sa aking mga pelikula.
Pinilit kong tandaan
kung ito ba ang pinagpilian:
ang kamera kaysa sa kaserola,
ang kanbas kaysa sa kuna,
ang talinghaga kaysa sa asawa.

Tinatanong mo pa rin hanggang ngayon
kung bakit wala pa rin akong kasama.
Kahit kelan hindi ko inisip
na ang pag-iisa
ay isang sumpa.
Hindi na muna ako lilinga,
magtanong ka man isang beses pa.
Baka ang darating na sagot ay matagal pa.

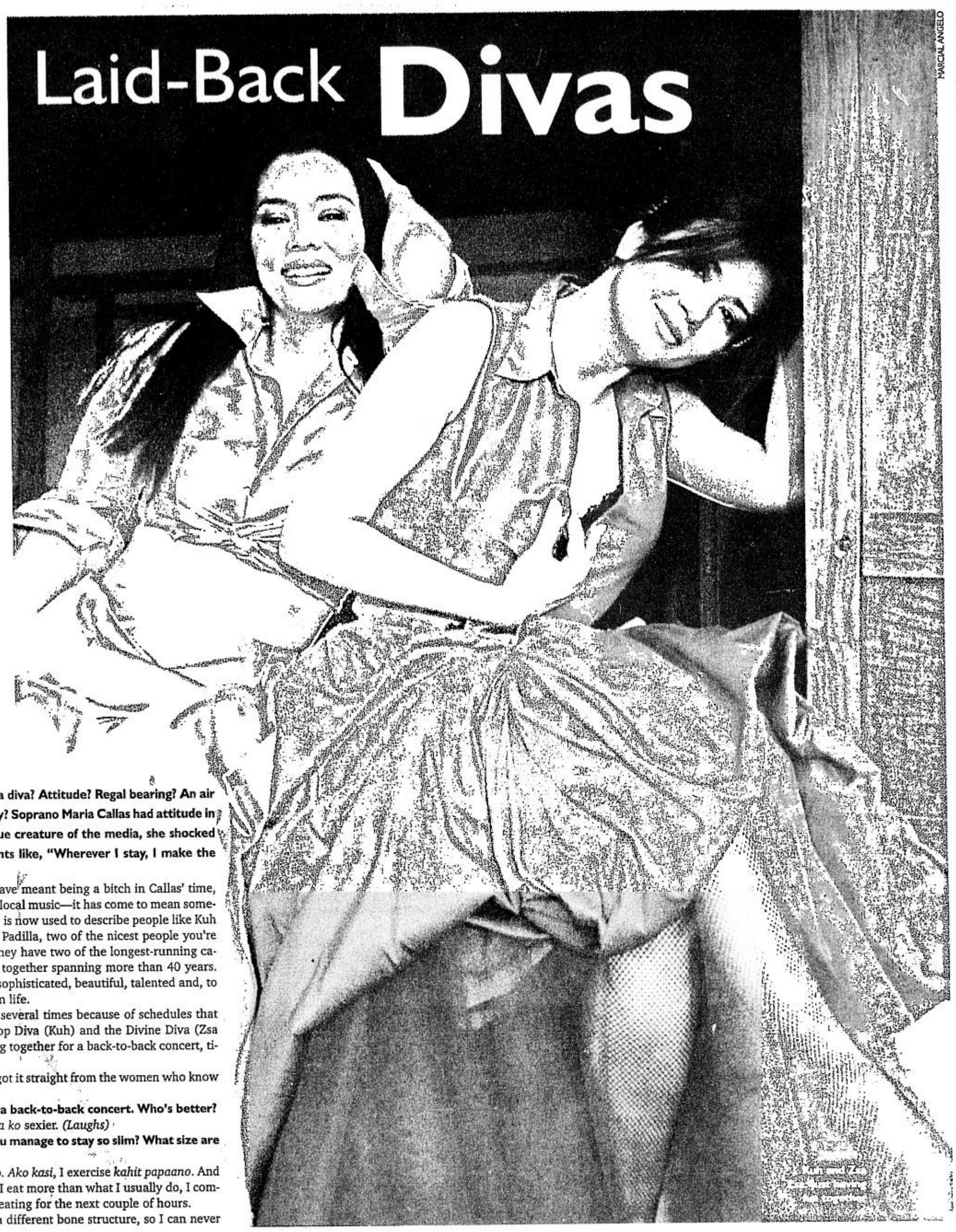
Vivian N. Limpin

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Music
By Tinna S. Bonifacio

Laid-Back Divas

Do two top female singers in one room make for a combustible combination? Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla may be mellowed-out survivors and mothers, but they're still ready to sing up a storm



MARCIAL ANGELO

HAT makes a diva a diva? Attitude? Regal bearing? An air of glamor and mystery? Soprano Maria Callas had attitude in generous doses. A true creature of the media, she shocked people with statements like, "Wherever I stay, I make the goddamn rules."

Being a diva may have meant being a bitch in Callas' time, but today—at least in local music—it has come to mean something different. "Diva" is now used to describe people like Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla, two of the nicest people you're ever likely to meet. They have two of the longest-running careers in the business, together spanning more than 40 years. They are glamorous, sophisticated, beautiful, talented and, to most of us, larger than life.

After putting it off several times because of schedules that wouldn't meet, the Pop Diva (Kuh) and the Divine Diva (Zsa Zsa) are finally getting together for a back-to-back concert, titled "Diva 2 Diva."

SIM sat down and got it straight from the women who know what it's all about.

SIM: You're doing a back-to-back concert. Who's better?

KUH: Better? *Akala ko* sexier. *(Laughs)*

SIM: So how do you manage to stay so slim? What size are your jeans?

KUH: I'm 26 *siguro. Ako kasi,* I exercise *kahit papaano*. And I watch what I eat. If I eat more than what I usually do, I compensate for it by not eating for the next couple of hours.

ZSA ZSA: I have a different bone structure, so I can never be that thin. I wish!

SIM: What do you know about each other now that you didn't know before?

ZSA ZSA: *Si* Kuh, *makulit*. But I mean that in a nice way. She's a perfectionist. When it comes to a show, she wants everything to be perfect. When I first met her, I was a bit intimidated. Now I understand her better. It's really her way.

KUH: We did a show last October 5 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Me, I can travel with one small suitcase. *Si* Zsa Zsa, *grabe!* When she travels, she really travels!

SIM: What does being a diva mean to you?

KUH: I think being a diva means you're larger than life. And us, we enjoy all of it. Being called a diva is very flattering.

ZSA ZSA: A diva is somebody who's respected onstage—and it's not just the voice, it's the whole package. Probably, being in the business for 20 years, Kuh and I have earned that. But after all this time, I still crave respect as a performer.

SIM: You still don't feel respected?

ZSA ZSA: This is a tough business we're in. There's no room for mistakes or dishonesty. And if you're not careful, showbiz could eat you up. It's really hard to strike a balance between how much of yourself you share with people, and how much you keep to yourself. There are times that I've gotten disrespect because of that.

SIM: Does being a diva mean being controversial?

ZSA ZSA: *Ay, ako, hindi!* No Divine Diva gets into fights!

KUH: *(Laughs)* Oh? Seriously, one of the things I found out about this girl is that she's very easy to work with. And she doesn't have a mean bone in her body, she's not the type who'll do something just to put another person down, or just to show off.

SIM: What about the two of you—do you get along, or do you fight with each other sometimes, like when one of you is late for rehearsals?

KUH: *Pareho kaming mabait* (We're both nice). *(Laughs)*

ZSA ZSA: And we're both relatively punctual.

KUH: We're producing this concert together. We split everything—including the expenses—50-50. *Hating kapatid.*

ZSA ZSA: We even chose the songs together.

SIM: You've also been through a lot in your personal lives. How do you handle it?

KUH: God. I'm a very serious born-again Christian, and I think a lot of people have seen the changes I've gone through. In God, I've found peace. God helped me let go of the bitterness, even from the start. In fact, Louie (Gonzales, Kuh's estranged husband) and I are even better friends now. There's no pressure.

ZSA ZSA: I've really been through a lot, especially when it comes to my relationship with Dolphy. We've been together 13 years. What's surprising is that with everything that's happened to us, we've still stayed together and survived it all. Even my family's a survivor. Last year was the worst.

KUH: You know, if I had met Zsa Zsa before, and knowing what I know now, I would have told her that it's best to ask for the guidance of God in painful situations. And she's also been through a lot of pain, especially with what happened to Vandolph last year. But I agree, she's a survivor.

SIM: Since we're on the subject of children, you're also both mothers to teenage daughters. What's it like being a mom?

ZSA ZSA: Challenging, especially since I became a mom when I was relatively young. But it's nice, because now Karylle and I treat each other like friends. *Barkada kami*. The important thing is knowing when to stop being a friend and start being a parent to your child.

KUH: Isabella's 18, but she's still a baby. She doesn't even have a boyfriend.

SIM: Isn't the mother always the last to know?

KUH: No, I'm sure, because we're always together. The funny thing is, sometimes she'll tell me, "Mom, tell me again why I shouldn't have a boyfriend yet." And I tell her that she might not be mature enough to handle the temptations that are always part of a relationship. I know, I've been there. I was in the same boat when I was younger, and it was terrible. I was only 16 when I first had a boyfriend! As parents, we don't want our kids to make the same mistakes that we did.

SIM: If you were asked to describe your life in one song, what would it be?

ZSA ZSA: *(Thinking deeply).* Hmmmm...

SIM: Overjoyed?

ZSA ZSA: Not really. I'm not ecstatically happy. I think a better way of saying it would be that I'm very blessed and grateful for all the things that have come my way. Then again, probably the song "When You Believe," from "The Prince of Egypt." Through it all, I believed we would survive. And we did.

KUH: For me, the song would have to be "Walking on Water." It's an original, a gospel song by Cecille Azarcon which will be included in my next album that I'm releasing before Christmas. That would be my life right now.

SIM: About the show, Kuh, you've done back-to-back concerts with other female artists, namely Jaya, Pops and Regine—why did you wait this long to do one with Zsa Zsa?

ZSA ZSA: Because you always save the best for last. *(Laughs)*

KUH: I had "Power of Two" with the others before, but that doesn't mean I didn't have Zsa Zsa in mind. I always did. In fact, we started talking about this two years ago, but she was always busy.

ZSA ZSA: Then when I became available, *ikaw naman ang* busy.

KUH: I had to do another show. Two and a half months ago, we finally found the time to do it, so we started discussing it more seriously.

SIM: How is this going to be different from your other "Power of Two" concerts?

KUH: When I conceptualized my "Power of Two" shows, those were really meant for more intimate venues. I wanted this to be different...

ZSA ZSA: *(Butting in)... kasi mas* special *ako.*

KUH: *Intriga 'yan!* (*Laughs)* But seriously speaking, I thought it was time to move on to a new concept. Basically the same show in that the concept of duets was still there, but it would be a bigger event in a bigger venue, with more produced numbers. *Yung pang*-CCP type. We even have an orchestra for this show.

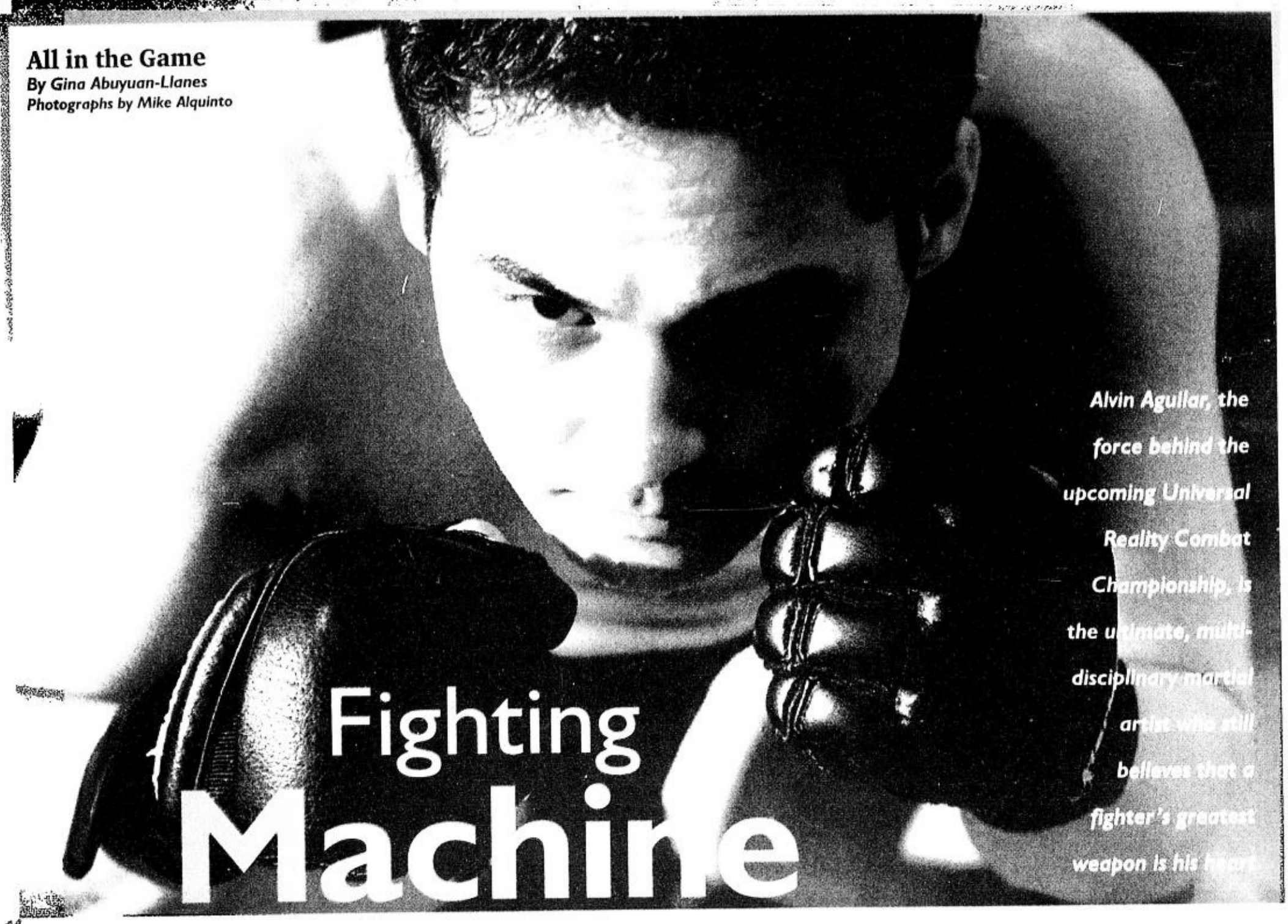
ZSA ZSA: Because of this whole diva-diva thing, people think of us as rivals. We moved in the same circles before, but we were never really close enough to consider doing a show together. But I guess there's no better time than now.

KUH: Definitely. We've both arrived at that point in our careers where we just want to enjoy ourselves. This concert comes at the right time in our lives, when we're both more mature and know how to have fun. This is not going to be a showdown or anything like that—it's just going to be the two of us having fun.

The Kuh Ledesma-Zsa-Zsa Padilla back-to-back concert, "Diva 2 Diva," goes onstage at the Plenary Hall of the PICC on November 29 and 30. For ticket reservations and inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-5610, the Music Museum at 721-6726, or Headline Concepts at 551-7251 to 55.

All in the Game

By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes
Photographs by Mike Alquinto



Alvin Aguilar, the force behind the upcoming Universal Reality Combat Championship, is the ultimate, multi-disciplinary martial artist who still believes that a fighter's greatest weapon is his heart

Fighting Machine

ALVIN Aguilar, 28, looks more like a lover than a fighter. He's clean cut, of average height (5'9"), weighs in at 153 lbs and has a profile that would look right on a Roman coin. When he shakes your hand, he grasps it tight and covers it with the other. He speaks and fidgets at the same time. First impression tells you he may even be nervous. "Look at me, I look like a little wimp," he says of himself.

A wimp he isn't—and God forbid one be on the receiving end of his unwimpiness. Alvin is everything you dread in an opponent: he's an instructor in Gracie Barra jiu jitsu, *sarian, yaw-yan (sayaw ng kamatayan),* and *pekiti-tirsia* (a Filipino weapon martial art). He's instructed the Philippine Marines in knife fighting, and was part of the only martial arts group that was contacted by the US Marines to train them in the same art during the recently-concluded Balikatan exercises. In the subculture of streetfighters and martial artists, his name has become a byword, having gained the reputation of being able to topple 10 (some say 14) men singlehandedly—an incident he neither confirms nor denies, but merely smiles at.

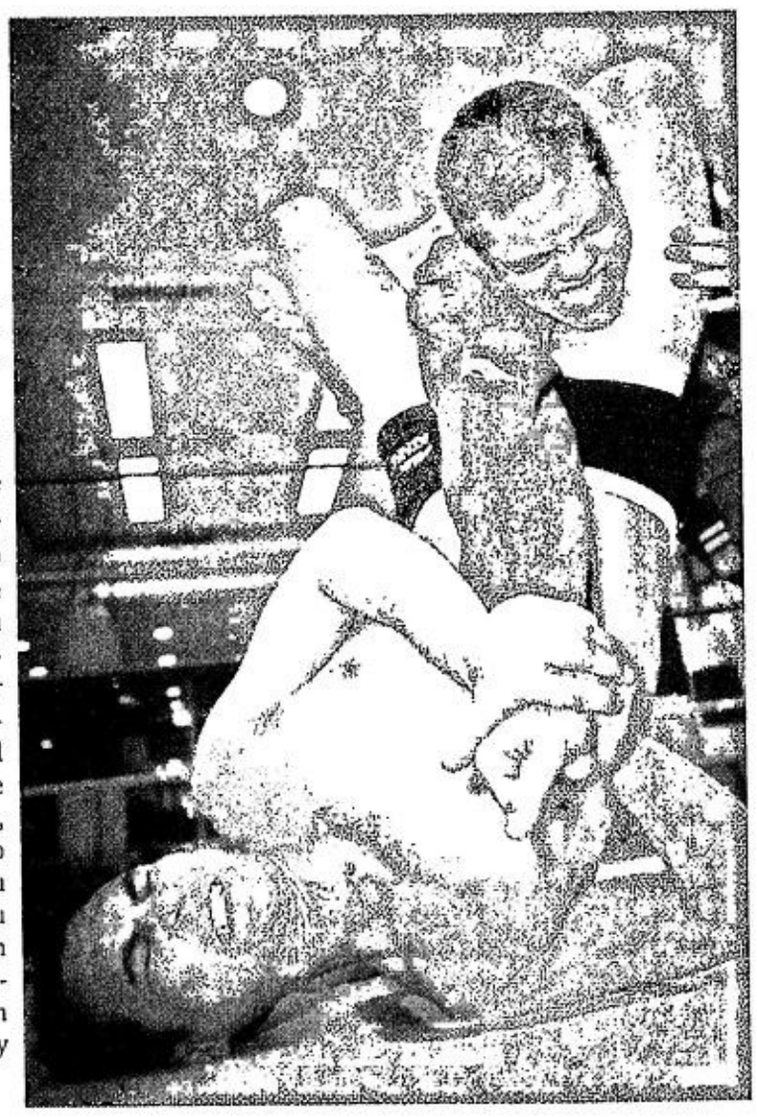
"Sometimes people exaggerate stories," he says. "There have been instances when I've been faced with multiple opponents. And the only reason I won those fights was because I had a better heart than they did. I wasn't willing to give up. It wasn't about being Superman and all that."

Having a "heart"—that drive that makes a fighter get up and go at it despite the odds—makes up 70 percent of one's fighting skills, says Alvin. Twenty percent is in one's technique, and 10 percent is pure luck. "What does it take to be a fighter? No. 1 is heart. No. 2, you can't take it as work. It has to be something you really, really enjoy. Another thing is, you should try to be as impervious to pain as possible. It's a mental state. Because in basketball, if you make a mistake, you just lose. In martial arts, if you make a mistake, you get hurt. So it's the pain that teaches you. So if you get hurt once, and because of that, you don't want to come back anymore, then how can you improve? All the good boxers you see, like Pacquiao, have been knocked out once or twice. So every fighter gets his licks in."

Participants of the upcoming Universal Reality Combat Championship, take heed. This ultimate fighting championship, conceived and organized by Alvin Aguilar, is the first of its kind in the Philippines. Already mainstream in countries like the US and Japan, the origin of such an event lies in the quest of people to "find martial arts that really work."

In the fight culture of the Philippines, where members of different schools of thought tend to pit their own against another, the competition promises to be a medium for change and a new perspective. "Because of these events," explains Alvin, "they can find out that martial arts isn't about studying just one art—it's about studying a lot of arts to be a complete fighter.

Alvin gets a leg up on the opposition



"When you fight in this kind of competition, you have to be a complete fighter. You have to be able to fight in all ranges. You have to have a striking range, so you go to boxing, kickboxing, *muay thai*, to get good hands. Now, that doesn't mean anything if the other guy can just take you down at will. So you have to study judo. You have to know wrestling. You have to borrow elements from there to take a person down. Then you have to learn how to fight on the ground, and that's where jiu jitsu comes in, and sambo. So preparing for these competitions, you have to borrow elements from all the arts."

Fifteen different types of martial arts signed up to join. Thirty-four fighters, classified by weight, will be competing in 17 fights. It's the closest thing you can get to witnessing a streetfight, says Alvin, but the organizers, keeping in line with the sports-oriented thrust of the event, have eliminated the more dangerous moves: "No biting, no eye-gouging, no throat pinching, no striking the groin, no striking the spinal column." There will also be no cages, because Alvin doesn't want to see human beings treated like "chickens in a *sabong*," and because once a fighter is pinned to the cage, all the chances to display his techniques are lost.

"So it's pretty much watered down. It's a sport. It's a combination of all the rules of martial arts that are approved by the Olympic committee. It's pretty tame. There's going be some blood, like in any boxing match, but it's tame."

After this initial fight, Alvin hopes to mount satellite events next year for every region. "We'll get the best fighter for every region, and after that, we're going to have a grand prix where they can all fight against each other. Again, I'm emphasizing that this is a sport. In Japan it's a sport; in the US it's a sport. So we have to keep it like that."

In the long run, the Universal Reality Combat Championship may just be the vehicle from where an RP team can be forged to compete in international competitions. "For example, our jiu-jitsu team has won five golds and three silvers in the past four years. I know that the Filipinos in general are very good fighters. We always excel in combat sports—boxing, taekwondo, wrestling. We have very good teams, even though we don't have much funds. I think it's because through our generations, *lagi tayong ginagago ng ibang tao* (we've always been taken for suckers). The Spaniards, Americans were always there. I guess it's inherent in us that we were always oppressed, so we had to learn to fight for ourselves. And I also think it's a part of being in a third world country."

But Alvin has the fight embedded in his DNA, more than the next guy. "When I was a kid, I wanted to be a ninja," he says. "I thought it was really cool that when they were caught, they'd throw a smoke bomb and disappear." He collected the shariukins, samurai swords and all of the other paraphernalia associated with the ninja, watched and read anything with a martial arts element in it.

He started taking karate when he was a child, got into his first school fight at nine (he's quit teaching moves to his son, Liam, 5, because he's started to execute them on his classmates in school). He started to take martial arts seriously in college, which took him seven years to finish. He took two years off from La Salle Taft to breath, dream, and immerse himself in different arts at the same time. By second year college, he was an instructor in sarian. Now, he runs a security agency, models on the side, teaches from his house in Parañaque, and holds classes at the Red Gym (with branches in Makati, Quezon City, Edsa, and La Salle, with two more to sprout by next year).

"This is my sport," Alvin says simply, when asked why he enjoys fighting so much. "When I was younger, I saw that I had the inclination, that I was above average at it. So I decided to pursue it, and pursued it a lot."

The Universal Reality Combat Championship will be held on November 23, 7 p.m., at the Casino Filipino Ampitheater. For ticket inquiries, please call 867-8059.

THIS FORM ENTITLES YOU TO WIN A DIAMOND SOLITAIRE RING FROM SIM

Sunday Inquirer Magazine is giving Away a Diamond Solitaire Ring worth P 150,000 to celebrate its 12th anniversary. Simply fill-up this form and drop in drop box located at any Inquirer branch. Deadline for Week 12 draw is on November 25, Monday. Promo extended until December 7th

WEEK 12

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

DIAMOND BE MINE

ENTRY FORM

Per DTI-NCR permit # 3338, series of 2002

Questions

1. What is the newest promo of SMART where you can win 7650s daily, P50,000 weekly and house & lot or P1M in the grand draw?
2. What is the title of Patricia Javier's steamy new dance pop video?
3. Who are the two divas featured in page 3 who will go onstage at the PICC Plenary Hall on November 29 and 30?
4. What jewelry shop in Robinson's Galleria is sponsoring a diamond solitaire ring in the grand draw of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine promo?

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SMART

SHOCKWAVE

NATIONWIDE

Where To Be For The Best Celfone Deals Ever!

Wait a minute...do you hear those bells jangling in the air, those familiar homey tunes constantly being played everywhere you go? Then again, they could be the latest SMART ring tones. Well, it's still a tad early for Santa to be rolling down your chimney anytime soon, but now is the best time to start looking for the best SMART celfone deals that thankfully have come just in time. SMART Shockwave Nationwide, the mega-sales event, is back to offer low-priced pre-paid handsets and other irresistible perks and offers this season!

At SMART Shockwave you can avail of the best, most desirable handsets at the most reasonable prices! There are SMART Buddy Nokia 3315 at just P4,490, Siemens A50 for only P3,990, and the Nokia 5210 a steal at just a low P9,690! You also get a one-two knockout power with the most powerful SMART 64K Super SIM!

Now you can also take home a piece of Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers well before the film premieres. Make a SIM swap to SMART 64K Super SIM during SMART Shockwave at all SMART Wireless Centers, TSI Outlets, or Shockwave mall sites, and you get a FREE Lord of the Rings t-shirt. There are four interesting designs to choose from: Arwen, Aragorn, Legolas, and Frodo (availability may vary).

With SMART Shockwave you also come out a winner with other new exciting deals. The SMART Gold Rush Promo gives you free SMART celfones and the most attractive plans for both new subscriptions and switchers. With SMART Gold Family 1+1 you can also get FREE celfones upon subscribing to another SMART Gold Plan. And with SMART Gold OFF SITE activation you get convenient and prompt service.

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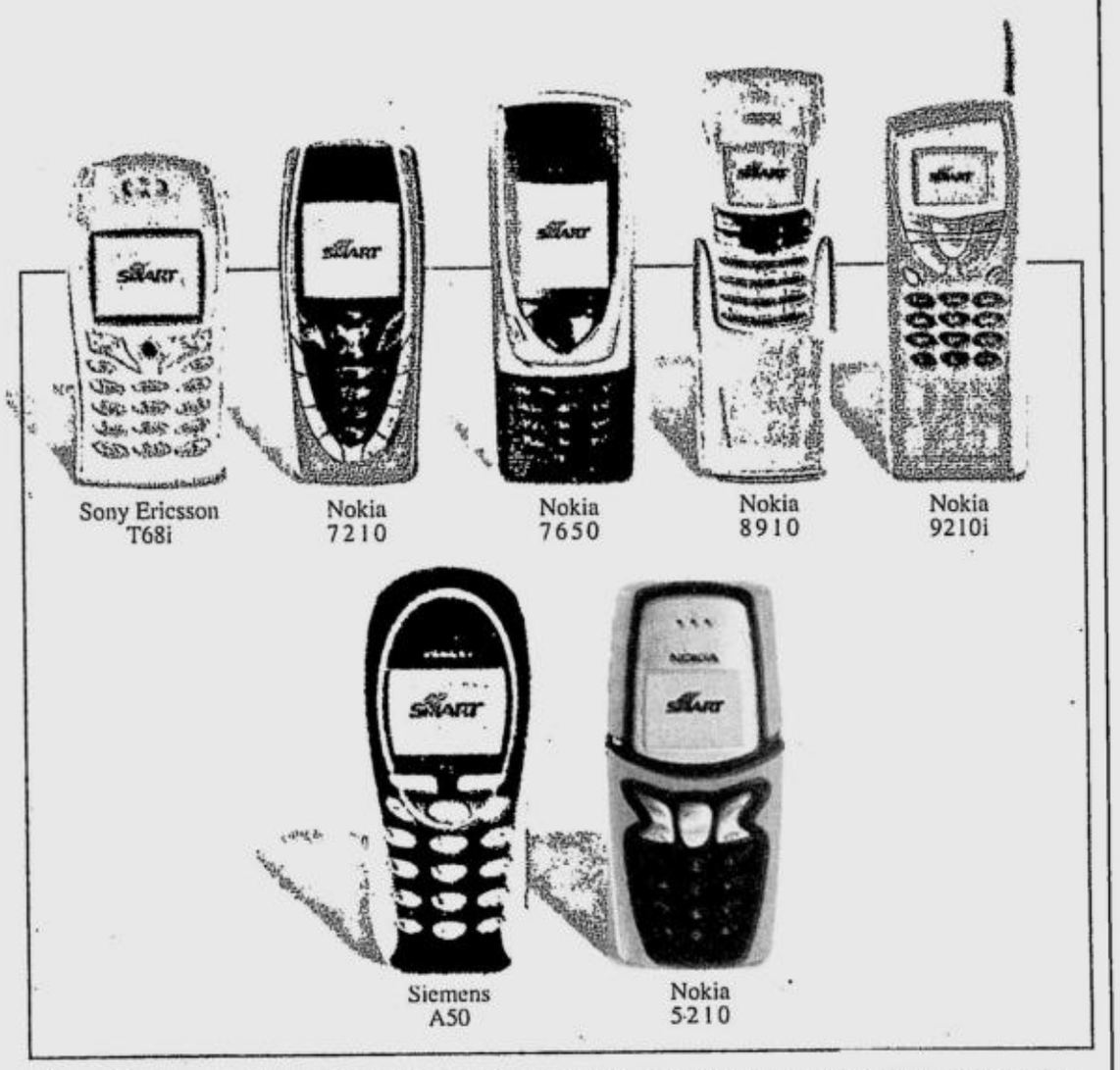
Each subscriber gets a FREE SMART MMS ballpen for every successful download of a SMART MMS 'FunPix, CardToon, PolyTone, or Traffic Shot at selected Shockwave sites. You can also get FREE Premium Items with every Talk 'N Text Celfone Purchase. Go ahead and pick a prize! Choose among t-Shirts, mesh envelopes, Talk 'N Text draw string bags, tote bags, round kits and caps.

For every SMART Electronic Load transaction (P250, P300, P500, or P1,000) you get a P25 bonus airtime. As ever, SMART zed gives you the freshest Ringtones and graphics with the new SMART zed Guide Book.

Activate MyCalendar and get a chance to win premium items on-site (pick-a-prize) and win Nokia 5210 weekly or P25,000 cash monthly from November 1, 2002 until January 26, 2003.

With SMART IDD you get a FREE copy of Colors Magazine (a local travel guide) for every IDD call reaching a minimum of 5 minutes.

So get ready for SMART Shockwave, visit the nearest booth and get yourself the hottest deals from November 15 - 30 2002!



The widest range of the most exciting celfones are now available at the SMART Shockwave sites. Come on over now and grab one for yourself and your loved ones this Christmas.

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Swap your non-SMART SIM for a SMART 64K Super SIM and get a Lord of the Rings shirt for FREE!

The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

'Maahh-Nongg!'

Nonoy Marcelo was living proof of controlled chaos. That sense of order about to break down, coupled with a razor-sharp satirist's eye, infused his works with a manic energy, wit, and an understanding of Filipino contemporary mores unparalleled in the country's annals of cartoon artistry

PDI PHOTO

NEW YORK—Hearing about Nonoy Marcelo's recent demise saddened me, and made me recall when we first became friends in this city, at the beginning of the 1970s. I stayed on; he moved back after some years here. But every time he came to town he would phone me, drawing out the syllables as he said, "*Mahh-nonggg!*" Elder Brother: It's what we had always hailed each other as, since we were flat-mates in the Village. I had found this tiny studio on Greenwich Avenue, for a truly low rent, not unusual in those days before the boom in real estate rendered Manhattan increasingly a preserve of the privileged and a ghetto for the poor. Right in the heart of the West Village, it was the perfect bohemian place, partly embodying why I had crossed several borders in order to be in this daunting metropolis, where caffeine, bright lights, high-strung ambitions, and a stunning combination of naiveté, world-weariness, and the egos of millions of disaffected (if caffeinated) souls fueled Manhattan.

The studio was truly tiny: five steps and you had traversed its length. At one end was a window overlooking a small courtyard that served as a passageway to another building fronting the next street—an alternative route out, which on occasion proved invaluable in avoiding unwelcome visitors. I had met Nonoy through my brother Henry and his wife Betsy Romualdez, who were then living in the Chelsea district. I knew of Nonoy through "Tisoy," his justly famed comic strip. He was looking for a place as well, and when I proposed sharing the Village apartment he agreed. To maximize the Lilliputian space, he built a loft bed right by the window, allowing for another bed beneath it. Nonoy proved adept at building things, much to my relief, as my manual skills lie solely in breaking them.

I was then working for Merrill Lynch, the stockbrokers, but the suits, the short haircuts, the 9-to-5 routine proved unbearable. I lasted for two months before finding work as a proofreader at a small publishing company. Harvey, my boss, needed a paste-up artist so I recommended Nonoy, whom he hired. What a worker Nonoy turned out to be—probably the fastest paste-up man Harvey had ever had. Even after Nonoy and I worked elsewhere, at separate jobs, Harvey would contract out certain books to Nonoy whenever he needed a job turned around yesterday. In the city that never sleeps, Nonoy fit right in, working around the clock, subsisting on limitless coffee (black), doughnuts and cigarettes. By then Nonoy was ensconced in another West Village place, with his American girlfriend, while I avidly pursued the joys of bachelorhood in the East Village.

The man had incredible energy. It was there in the way he talked, rapid-fire, like a Demosthenes who could not dislodge the pebbles in his mouth. His style was inimitable, Nonoy-speak: riffs, counter-riffs, asides, slang, interjections, puns, etc. One didn't hear complete trains of thought so much as the crash when they roared into each other. One sensed and intuited his meanings (invariably plural) from recognizable words that would pop up as a kind of guide to the topography of his speech. He was living proof of controlled chaos. Whenever we went on one of our walking forays—this city is a great one to walk in—we would compete as to who could get back to the apartment faster. I am taller than Nonoy but he always won. His way of walking resembled nothing more than a man ready to fling himself into battle, his thick legs working like pistons, propelling himself forward, on the verge of taking a dive into the sidewalk.

That controlled chaos, that sense of order about to break down, coupled with a razor-sharp satirist's eye, are what infused his works with a manic energy, wit, and an understanding of Filipino contemporary mores unparalleled in the country's annals of cartoon artistry. Tisoy, *Aling* Otik, Clip, Ikabod, Bubwit, Boss Miawok and the denizens of Dagalandia—all inhabit a social and moral universe about to slide into sheer Darwinism and where improvisation, stoicism, self-deprecating gallows humor, and a keen understanding of the forces that control our lives (and of the fact that there's very little we can do to change them) are necessary for survival. Like all great satirists, Nonoy was a humanist at heart, and held up a mirror to us, so we could laugh at ourselves and cry at the same time.

Here in NuYok—as Nonoy called it—he tried his hand at film. A hilarious short animated work he did, very expressionistic, was "*Utot* in Space": Tisoy as a space walker consumes intergalactic clouds voraciously, and ends up with a Big Fart, various Pop images that loom on the screen, being part of the detritus. As Nonoy would say, "Artsy-fartsy, ika nga."

Then there was his 16mm feature, a satire on the Tasaday "discovery," involving a manipulative white explorer and a lost tribe he stumbles on, whose members, otherwise ordinary rainforest inhabitants, have the special gift of excreting gold whenever answering the call of nature. A number of his Pinoy friends, including myself, played the discovered innocents. Filming was in late autumn, so hamming it up in our loincloths (actually, our briefs) proved to be a chilly exercise. To suggest the tropics, Nonoy shot in Central Park, which has secluded woodsy areas, using medium shots and close-ups. The viewer was not to know that this was Central Park; only at the end, when the camera pans to the background does the audience see the familiar residential towers of Manhattan.

I don't know if Nonoy ever completed the film. Every time I'd ask him, he'd say only that it was being held by a former functionary in the Marcos regime. That would be some irony—a film about a lost tribe being lost itself. And now we've lost him, a peerless tribe of one.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

A Pre-Advent Letter of Invitation

Being poor is not "having nothing" but "giving everything," as we invite you to use us as channels of generosity and goodwill

IT SEEMS that we at the Center for Migrant Youth (CMY), on our 20th year, are being called to shift paradigms by moving on from being merely passive receivers at Christmas to being active givers instead, and to be ministers to the "other poor" this year.

The "other poor" are the "poor besides us"—those outside our cozy home (in the streets, slums, detention centers and other places of suffering and loneliness) who have much less in life, and who are loved less and remembered less even at Christmas time. Yes, we want to be remembered as the poor reaching out to the "other poor." But "being poor," to us, is not "having nothing" but "giving everything" even if that means giving one's life or risking embarrassment for inviting you to use us as channels of generosity and goodwill.

This is precisely what this pre-Advent letter to you is all about:

"The Center for Migrant Youth (CMY) will minister to 500 street families and solitary vagrants during our Pasko Para sa Poor (PPP).

"We need sugar, coffee, milk, canned foods, noodles, laundry soap, toiletries, used clothing, rubber slippers, beddings (mat, pillow, blanket), old toys and candies for children. We'll pack them in middle-sized gift *bayongs* for Christmas.

"We'll provide you with the *bayongs* (as many as you need). Just fill them up with the above items, more or less. We'll provide the rice. Or just give in bulk if that's more convenient for you, and send them to us: 103 Cordillera Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City (tel. 732-8268 and ask for Joe, Bimbo or Aris). Please attach your name, address and telephone number on your gifts so we can thank you formally and include you in all our community prayer-intercessions here at 6 p.m. daily and at 8:15 a.m. (Sundays) especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

"Please help CMY by helping us reach out to 'the lost, the last, the lowest and the least of our *yagit* brothers and sisters' this Christmas 2002.

"Come to our CMY Advent III Sunday Mass on December 15 at 5 p.m. here at CMY. You may bring your PPP (*Pasko Para sa* Poor) gifts as early as December 15-20, and a simple star lantern for a lantern-less home."

My two latest books ("Idol" and "My Crazy Dream") might already be available on December 15 (or December 19, my birthday). Check them out at the Claretian Publications at 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City (tel. 921-3984).

Today, November 17, is the 53rd alumni homecoming of the Torres High School Class '49. Lino and Lumen Espino wrote in to request me to invite other 49ers to come home to the old Torres High School on Juan Luna Street, Gagalangin, Tondo for a reunion of classmates and friends from way back, and get energized by the Spirit of '49 from 4 to 7 p.m. November 21-22 is also the 73rd alumni homecoming of San Jose Seminary at the Ateneo University Compound.

Indeed, it's a grateful feeling to still be able to attend such homecomings when many of your classmates 53 and 43 years ago are no longer able to, either because they are already "gone" or "about to go."

It's a lovin' feeling to realize how much you're loved by Him who still has the patience to allow you to value your many talents not by burying them in the ground but risking them and putting them to good use in a spirit of trust, adventure and enterprise (Mt. 25:14-30).

December 1 is already the first Sunday of Advent, your next date with "The Word."

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

He Hates His Parents

"Either I die or they do"

Dear Joe,

My problem doesn't involve my love life but my parents, who are so darn strict with me. Until now, they won't let me have a girlfriend, or hang out with my friends. I hate my parents to the point of thinking ill of them. Either I die, or they do. I'm so sick and tired of the life I have right now, and I don't know what to do. I tried to reason with my parents, but my efforts were in vain. They have a close-minded idea on child upbringing.

I know I can't blame them, because there was a time in the past when I almost ruined my life because I was rebelling at the way they were treating me. The scars I have on my left wrist are reminders of the many times I've tried to end my own life.

I'm always meeting the right girl, but at the wrong time. I'm afraid that when the right time comes, I wouldn't be able to meet the right girl. I've been hurt more than once, Joe, and I hate my parents for that. They give me things like cellphones and nice clothes, but that's not what I truly want. If only my parents weren't such a pain, I would've been successful in all the things I did when I was a teenager. Now that I'm 20 years old, I don't think that I could do much anymore.

Although I don't like to hurt other people, but my parents always forced me to break up wih my girlfriends in the past. Sometimes I ask God why He gave me such parents, why He chose these people who couldn't bring out the best in me. Sometimes, I feel like there is no God in my life. When my friends and I chat about life and stuff, I shy away when the topic turns to parents. I can't find anything that could make me proud of my parents, because every inch of my whole being hates them.

Joe, I hope that this letter would open the minds of many parents who are like mine. Please trust your children, or your children will-never learn to trust themselves. Obsessive love for one's child is dangerous. Thank you, Joe, for being my friend.

Jade

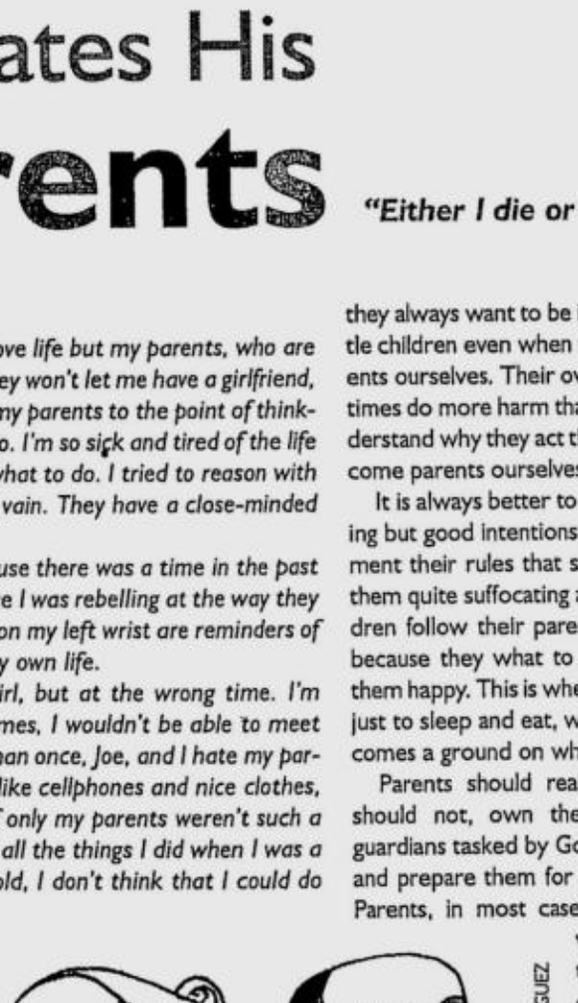


Illustration by ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Dear Jade,

Many of us must have felt this way towards our parents at least once in our lives. Sometimes it is really difficult to understand why they always want to be in control, treating us like little children even when we're old enough to be parents ourselves. Their overprotectiveness can sometimes do more harm than good. But we can only understand why they act the way they do when we become parents ourselves.

It is always better to believe that they have nothing but good intentions for us. It is how they implement their rules that sometimes makes living with them quite suffocating and disappointing. Many children follow their parents because of fear and not because they what to get their approval or make them happy. This is when the home becomes a place just to sleep and eat, when it loses its value and becomes a ground on which hatred grows.

Parents should realize that they do not, and should not, own their children. They are just guardians tasked by God to help them grow in love and prepare them for bigger responsibilities in life. Parents, in most cases, indeed know more than what their children know, but they should also give their children the opportunity to be heard and understood.

Children, on the other hand, should respect their parents at all times, no matter how unfair, insensitive or oppressive they may seem. They are our caretakers and are responsible for us. When we fail, they also suffer in pain. But they keep it to themselves because they have to be strong for us. It is not easy being a parent. Neither is it easy raising good children.

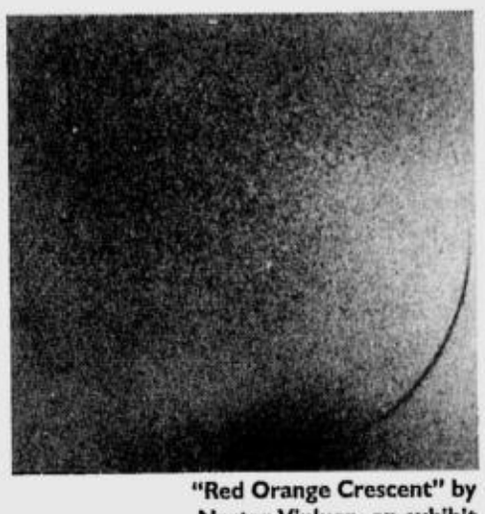
Let us always remember that there is no such thing as a perfect family. There is no perfect mom, dad, and children. Fights and rivalries are inevitable. Let us not allow hatred to grow in our hearts for it poisons any family relationship. Love and respect are the keys to a happy relationship between parents and children.

Art

Sounds of Colors, a group exhibit by the Filipino Deaf Visual Arts Group, Nov. 17-31 at the UP Church of the Risen Lord, Diliman, QC. Call 921-8521 for details.

New Works: Painting the Subconscious, a collection of paintings in acrylic and enamel on canvas by Roy Veneracion at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Nov. 28.

Faith and Devotion, a group exhibit in various media of the art group Dogmanstar composed of UST Fine Arts alumni Pedro Garcia, Mark Vincent Matabilas and Wesley Valenzuela with Olan Ventura from the University of the East until Nov. 29 at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences.



"Red Orange Crescent" by Nestor Vinluan, on exhibit at The Luz Gallery

Nestor Olarte Vinluan holds an exhibit of recent paintings at The Luz Gallery, Locsin Building, Makati Avenue until Dec. 5.

Over the Volcano, a multimedia art exhibit of the Center for Bikol Arts Foundation Inc. at the Alliance Francaise de Manille, Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati until Dec. 13.

Surface, an exhibit featuring the works of Escuela sa Museo artist-teachers Leslie de Chavez, Marc Cosico, Tommy Daquioag, Fernando Escora, Alex Chan Lim, Felix Chan Lim, Wed Lodriga, Amiel Roldan, Don Salubayba, Yasmin Sison and Jevijoe Vitug until Dec. 14 at the Ayala Museum.

Music

Musical Theater Philippines is mounting a special fund-raising concert, **Musicat Music**, featuring exceptional music from memorable productions such as "Katy!," Kenkoy Loves Rosing," "Alikabok," "Sino Ka Ba Jose Rizal?," "Ang Larawan, The Musical," "Saranggola ni Pepe" and "Fire, Water, Woman" on Nov. 20 at the CCP Main Theater. Featured performers are Ogie Alcasid, Rachel Alejandro, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Ricky Davao, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Celeste Legaspi, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Mitch Valdes, Regine Velasquez and many other special guests. For details, call 687-0656.

Cinema

Instituto Cervantes together with the UP Film Center will screen **Spanish films** at the UP Film Center Videopeque on Nov. 22: "Abre los ojos (Open Your Eyes)" at 4 p.m. and "Bodas de Sangre (Blood Wedding)" at 7 p.m. For inquiries, call 526-1482 to 85.

Mulat: The Visual Film Festival, featuring short films by deaf and hearing-impaired in celebration of Deaf Awareness Week, Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. UP Church of Risen Lord, Diliman, QC. For group reservations, call 921-8521.

Onstage

Sa Kaharian ng Araw, a musical that examines issues of friendship, relationships and priorities written by Onofre Pagsanghan to be staged by Dulaang Habi on Nov. 23 and 30 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Sinag Arts Studio Black Box Theater. For inquiries, call 713-4805.

Ibong Adarna, a Gantimpala Theater production of the Filipino folk tale about the search for the singing bird that is the only cure to the sick king, goes onstage today at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the RFC Theater in Las Piñas. The second weekend run will be at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo on Nov. 21-23 and the final weekend run will be at the St. Cecilia's Auditorium, St. Scholastica's College. For details, call 899-5745 and 896-3505.

Atbp

Executive Editors Inc. is offering seminars on two types of corporate communication: **Writing for Business Results** on Nov. 21-22 and **Press Releases for All Occasions**. For details, call 887-3797 or 98.

Learn how to assemble your own PC, configure hardware, install software and trouble shoot basic computer problems through a **Computer Assembly Workshop** on Nov. 24 (and every last Sunday of the month), 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Isis International-Manila Office, 3 Marunong St., Teacher's Village Ext., QC. For reservations, call 417-1521.

The Miriam College High School Student Council will hold a school fair dubbed **Bond Aid** on Nov. 21-23. Food, fun and trade booths await visitors. There will also be an open party on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Miriam College Endowment Fund for Scholarships and Faculty Development and other outreach programs. For tickets, call 927-2421 ext. 244.

The Fe del Mundo Medical Center invites all patients and medical students of pediatric pioneer Dr. Fe del Mundo to **A Reunion of Fe del Mundo Babies** on Nov. 27 at No. 11 Banawe St., Quezon City. On that day, Dr. del Mundo will be turning 91 and it is also the hospital's 45th Foundation Day. For registration, visit or call the following centers: Fe del Mundo Medical Center (741-9198 / 743-1818 / 712-0845 loc. 178, look for Annalyn); Pangarap Services Inc. c/o ISLA The Advocacy Channel, 4/F Caresma Bldg., 50 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City (tel. 757-3161 or 62, look for Kathy Sula).

Gingersnaps Holiday Collection at The Lobby Lounge, Edsa Shangri-La

Instituto Cervantes will hold the first **Filipino-Hispanic architecture congress** from Nov. 27-29 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. It will be an international gathering of researchers who have a particular interest in Filipino architecture of the past centuries. The focus of the congress is to raise awareness on the value of the country's architectural heritage and the need to preserve it. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

"Musicat Music" features Ricky Davao and other performers at the CCP on Nov. 20

The UP Institute of Creative Writing, together with the National Commission of Culture and the Arts and the Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices, will hold a **forum on the role of the editor/anthologist in the formation of the Philippine literary canon** on Nov. 20, 4:30 p.m. at the SEC Lecture Hall 2 of the Ateneo de Manila University. For inquiries, call 922-1830.

The Corporate Mind presents **Etiquette for All Occasions**, a seminar on executive refinement and etiquette, on Nov. 17 and 24, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and on Nov. 19 and 20, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites on ADB Avenue, Pasig City. Speaker is Joscephine Gomez. For details, call 687-7898.

Join Pinoy Writers' upcoming **mini-module writing workshops** scheduled on the following dates: Nov. 30 (10-a.m. to 12 noon), Writing the Horror Story, (2-4 p.m.) Dynamic Dialogues; Dec. 7, (10 a.m. to 12 noon), Writing the Ad-Copy, (2-4 p.m.) Writing the Inspirational Article; Dec. 30 (10 a.m. to 12 noon), Writing the Haikus and Other Short Poems, (2-4 p.m.) Show Don't Tell. All sessions will be held at Café Literati, 3/L Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta Mall, Makati City. Registration fee is P200. For details, call 893-9079.

Kabbalah: The Gift of Angels, a seminar that reveals techniques on how to create your destiny, develop psychic powers and contact angels and other intelligence, Nov. 23, 1:30 p.m., Room 101, University Hotel, UP Campus, Diliman, QC. For details, call 937-1040.

The Center for Health and Creative Arts offers the **Intensive Journal Program** on Nov. 21-22 (Part I—Life Context), Nov. 23-24 (Part II—Depth Contact), and Nov. 30-Dec. 31 (Part III—Life Integration) at the Partnership Center, 59 Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC. For details, call 434-5381.

Tea Party at the Lobby Lounge of the Edsa Shangri-La showcases Gingersnaps Holiday Collection 2002 inspired by Latin American designs on Nov. 23 and Dec. 7 and 14. At 3 p.m., parents can preview the perfect look for their little ones this Christmas for P325 per person. For inquiries, call 633-8888 ext. 2738.

The NCCA invites all talented writers of serious poetry, short stories, creative non-fiction and theater scripts in English or any Philippine language to be among the 30 **new writers for Ubod, The New Authors Series**, a book scheduled to be published by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The NCCA will be accepting manuscripts of either of the following: 20-40 poems; 5-10 short stories; 5-20 creative non-fiction, or one theater script on or before Nov. 30. Submitted manuscripts should be typewritten, double spaced in hard copy or electronic file. Send manuscripts with resumé to Glenn Maboloc, Public Affairs and Information Division, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. For inquiries, call 527-5529 or 527-2192 loc. 612-614.

X-manila

Art therapist Neeltje Prior-Bollen from Holland will conduct a four-day course on **The Transformative Path Through Charcoal and Painting** on Nov. 21-24 at the Mary Ridge Good Shepherd Convent, Tagaytay City. For details, call 372-2170.

The Andanians (Pangasinan) Association Inc. in coordination with the Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko Foundation and Las Piñas Dental Chapter is sponsoring a **medical-dental mission** on Nov. 22 in Anda, Pangasinan. The whole-day medical-dental mission is open to residents of the island town.

Books as Such, a solo book art exhibit by Delfin Tolentino jr. until Dec. 1 at The Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City.

Watch **Wacky Thursday at Purple Ostrich** at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite for a rib-tickling musical entertainment every Thursday at 9 p.m. You can also join the Singalong Challenge and win prizes. For inquiries, call 810-3740 in Makati or (046) 44-0210 in Cavite.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Pagpanggap

Light on the Streets

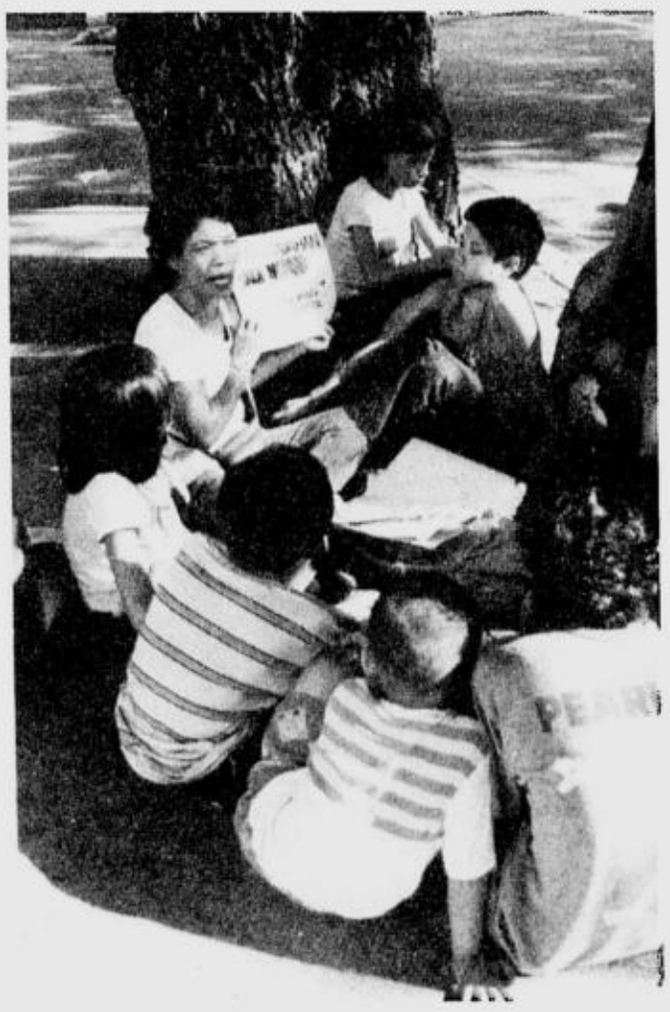
Childhope's Street Education Program aims to save street children by teaching them life lessons

GIVING alms is illegal, but the legions of street children risking life and limb on our many corners and intersections continue to increase. If you're looking for a way to truly help street children, then Childhope's Street Education Program may just be the cause for you. Not your usual academic program full of lectures that don't relate to their lives, Childhope's program helps the children gain the needed skills and lessons to help them survive and move beyond the city streets. Perhaps then, street children can become truly just children, growing up with the safety and security they deserve.

Handling the program are 18 street educators, and of these, five are actually former street children. They certainly know what they're talking about. Among the topics discussed in the Street Education Program are Children's Rights, Personal Safety Against Sexual Abuse and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Children will also have access to individual counseling. The Street Education Program can also refer their wards to shelters, or even aid in reuniting them with their families. This isn't just about the classroom—it's about finding a better life for them.

A non-stock, non-profit group, Childhope Asia Philippines is heavily committed to the advocacy of the rights of street children. Founded in 1993, the Street Education program now assigns its street educators to five different areas within Metro Manila and has aided over 48,000 street children.

But more children remain trapped in the vicious cycle of life in the streets, and Childhope needs help. Childhope is looking for people, groups and institutions who are interested in adopting a street educator so that Childhope can continue to expand the Street Education Program. For inquiries, please call 563-4647 or 563-2242 (look for the project coordinator) or email chap@childhope.org.ph. You may also log on to http://www.childhope.org.ph.



A Childhope Street Educator in action: A better life, even without a classroom

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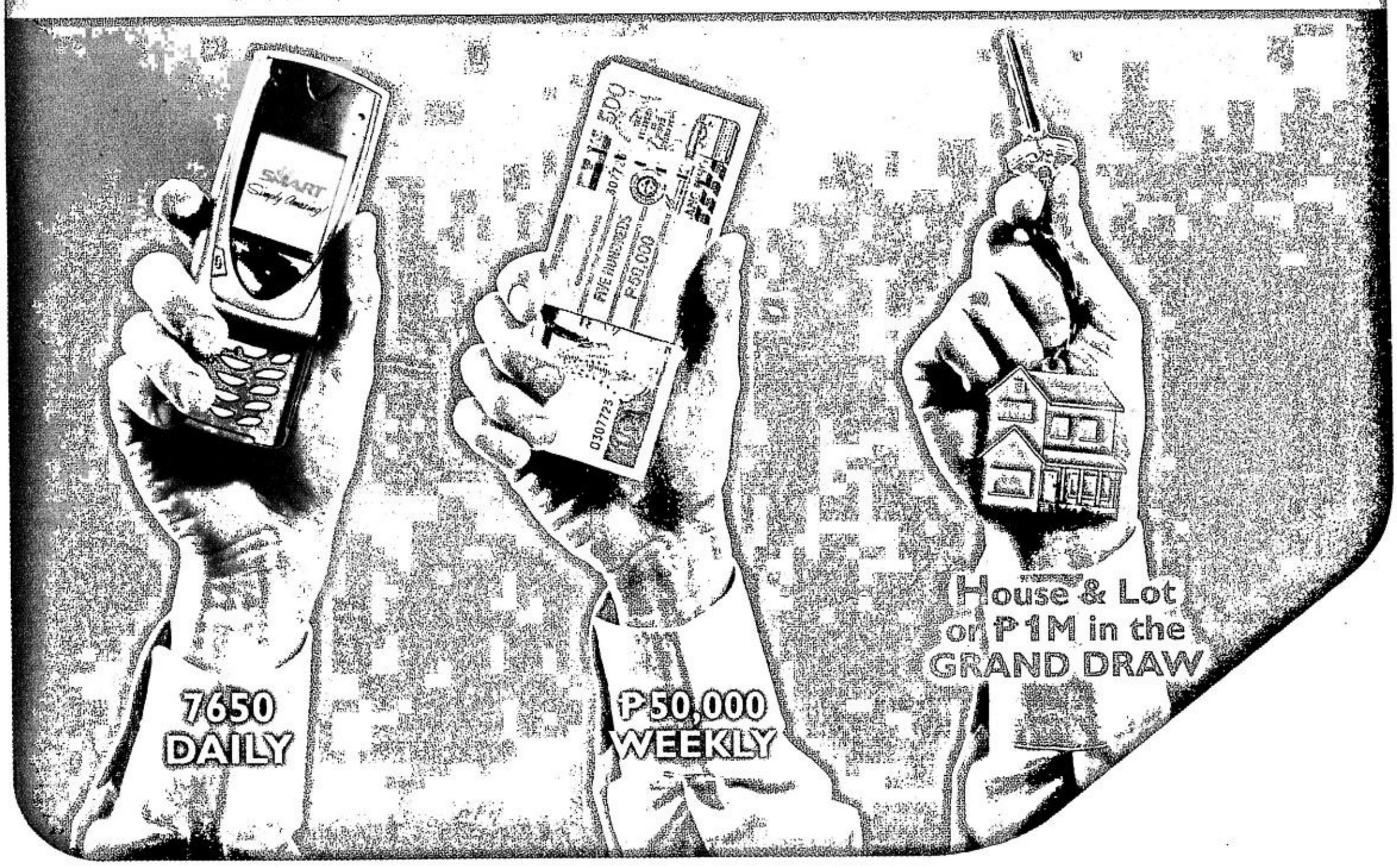

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